

UML receives a failing grade

Coalition for Contingent Academic Labor calls UMass Lowell unfair to its part-time professors

REPORT CARD					
Institution:	Adjunct pay per course	Benefits	Full-Time equivalent	Ratio	Grade*
Babson College	\$3,700	No	\$9,500	39%	F
Bay State College	1,350	No	-	-	F
Bentley College	3,300	No	8,113	41	F
Berklee Coll Music*	3,328	Yes	5,625	59	C-
Boston College	3,900	Ltd	7,213	54	D-
Boston University	3,500	No	-	-	I
Brandeis University	5,000	Yes	6,563	76	B
Bridgewater State*	3,065	No	5,075	60	D
Bunker Hill CC*	2,298	No	4,030	57	F-
Cape Cod CC*	2,298	No	3,860	60	D-
Curry College*	3,300	Yes	4,975	66	C
Emerson College**	2,900	No	6,213	47	F
Harvard	3,000	No	8,950	34	F
LaSalle	1,500	No	-	-	F
Lesley University	2,600	No	-	-	I
Mass Bay CC*	2,298	No	-	-	I
Mass College of Art*	3,065	No	-	-	I
Mass Coll Pharmacy	2,625	No	-	-	I
Mass Commun Coll	1,800	No	-	-	F
Mass Institute Tech	7,000	No	9,012	78	C+
Massasoit CC*	2,298	No	3,210	72	C-
Mount Ida College	1,536	No	-	-	F
Northeastern U	2,450	No	7,287	34	F
Northern Essex CC*	2,298	No	3,870	59	F
Regis College	2,600	No	3,920	66	D
Roxbury CC*	2,298	No	-	-	I
Simmons College	3,600	No	6,050	60	D-
Stonehill College	2,500	No	5,075	49	F
Suffolk University	2,700	No	6,450	42	F
Tufts University	4,700	No	6,500	72	C-
U Mass Boston*	4,200	Yes	6,762	62	C-
U Mass Lowell	2,400	No	7,000	34	F
Wellesley College	5,000	No	7,137	70	C-
Westfield State Coll.*	3,065	No	4,775	64	D
Wheelock College	2,437 pro-rate	-	5,687	43	F

by Rob Velella
Connector Editor

UMass Lowell recently received a failing grade for their treatment of adjunct (part-time) faculty members, according to the *Adjuncts Unite!* newsletter.

The newsletter is produced by the Boston chapter of COCAL, the Coalition of Contingent Academic Labor – an adjunct faculty labor union. The newsletter was anonymously pinned to bulletin boards across campus during the month of November.

On the front page of the four-page newsletter was printed a "report card" for 35 Massachusetts colleges and universities. UMass Lowell was among fifteen that received an "F," six others received an incomplete.

The report card indicated that part-time professors were paid only \$2,400 per course, which is 34 percent of what full-timers make per course, and also that adjuncts received no benefits. Several sources are cited for all their information, including various surveys.

Provost Bob Wagner said that their numbers are slightly outdated. Though he couldn't cite an exact fig-

ure, he said the average pay per class is higher than what was reported.

In fact, the recently-released UMass Lowell 2000-2001 Fact Book, published by the office of Institutional Research, does not report the salaries of adjunct faculty. According to Millicent Kalaf, it would be difficult to calculate due to the variety of courses adjuncts teach, from lecture classes to off-campus courses to music lessons. Adjustments would have to be made in order to accurately compare to full-time equivalence.

Provost Wagner says that many adjuncts are utilized on campus, especially in Continuing Education and evening classes. He says that these professors already have full-time jobs and are often quite accomplished in the fields they teach, but their teaching isn't necessarily their main source of income. However, their experience and expertise in the corporate world is invaluable to students who can learn from someone who knows it first-hand.

In these cases, the part-time professors are not making a living off of teaching, only using it to supplement their income. However, there are some professors who only teach,

although many are forced to teach at more than one institution to get a bigger paycheck. Additionally, part-timers are worried about their job security, as adjuncts tend to come and go very quickly, and very few are promoted to full-time.

Dean Jerome Hojnacki, Dean of the Graduate School, says that part-time professors have the same rights as full-time professors. Such benefits include a university ID, access to faculty parking lots, the option to sign out media equipment for class instruction, and so on. Additionally, adjunct faculty members get evaluated at the end of the semester, just as full-time professors and, Hojnacki notes, many have received "stellar" reviews.

Even so, Dr. Wagner understands that part-time professors don't always feel that they are a part of the campus. Often, part-time faculty members have to share office space and don't have their own phone line, which can make it difficult to communicate with students.

"I think we should focus on improving the manner in which we orient especially new part-time facul-

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WJUL Upgrades

by J.J. Huggins
Connector Contributor

UMass Lowell students have an alternative to the mainstream music of corporate radio stations. 91.5, WJUL Lowell is the station to turn to if students want to hear the latest local and underground music.

However, playing underground music doesn't pay the bills the way playing mainstream music does. WJUL has always been commercial free, so it has not been easy for them to get the money needed to keep the radio station up and running.

The staff at WJUL is planning on continuing to fill the air waves and is making the proper technological advancements to do so. The radio station is planning on making \$50,000 worth of improvements, the main

aspect of which is a new control board. Approximately \$35,000 will be spent on a new control board and the rest will be spent on construction to accommodate the new board.

Pat Murphy, the DJ for Sour Grapes Radio on WJUL described the control board that they've been using as outdated. According to Murphy, "it's a necessity to keep up with the technology". Apparently the control board that the DJs have been using is not keeping up with the times. Kelly Andreoni, General Manager for WJUL Lowell said of the old control board, "It could have just decided to stop working at any given time, and we had to pretty much tape things together to keep them in working order."

Getting the money to pursue the board project has taken three

years according to Andreoni. WJUL has been spending as little from their budget as they possibly can in order to save for the new control board. By saving they were able to accumulate \$25,000. "We skimped on a lot of needs over the past three years to save money for this project", stated Andreoni.

The radio station staff has also applied for numerous grants so they can meet the \$50,000 required to make the changes that will be needed to be made in the studio. To the WJUL staff the benefits of having the new control board will outweigh the cost.

The entire staff of the UML radio station is made up of students. The General Manager is a student, the DJs are students, and the interns are students. They do have a faculty advisor,

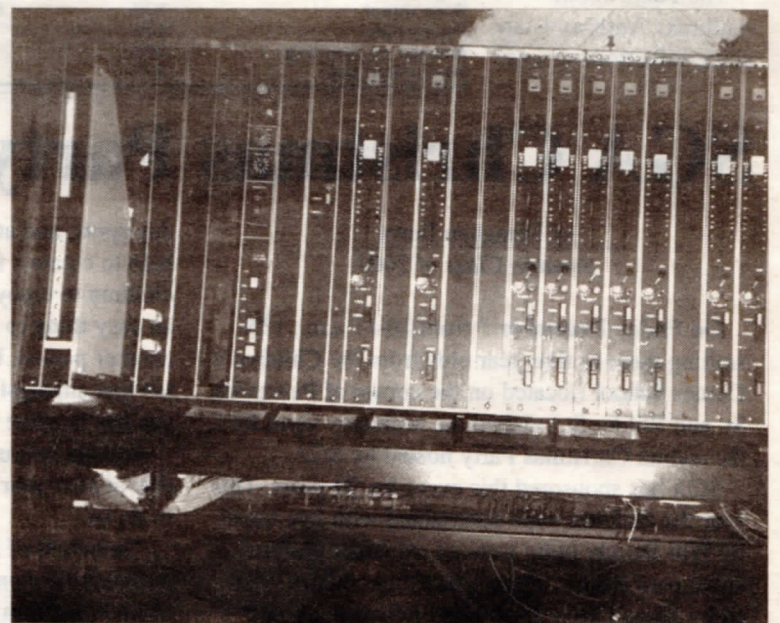


Photo by J.J. Huggins

Campus radio station WJUL says good-bye to their old sound board.

but they govern themselves.

Pat Murphy, when asked if he works at the station because he wants to make a career out of it replied, "I have no plans to go into professional radio because then I would be playing music that I don't believe in. I like to give exposure to bands that I

feel are great and wouldn't otherwise get exposure. WJUL isn't about moving units or hit singles, it's only about playing underground music." Murphy dedicates his time to WJUL simply for the fun of it, like many of the DJs who host shows on WJUL.

4-Day Weather Forecast for the Lowell Area, Dec. 11th-14th

Senior Student Meteorologist: Kristen L. Kerouac

Tuesday:

Early morning cloudiness giving way to mostly sunny conditions by afternoon. Warm weather will be making a comeback, with highs 45-50. Overnight lows 30-35 under mainly clear skies.

Wednesday:

A sunny start, with clouds thickening during the morning. Scattered showers developing by evening. Daytime highs 48-53. Overnight lows 35-40.

Thursday:

Looks like a wet one, but a warm one too... too warm for snow. Rain for most of the day highs in the lower 50's. Overnight lows in the upper 30's with rain showers continuing through the evening.

Friday:

Lingering showers can't be ruled out for first thing in the morning, but then things to look up for us. The leftover clouds will burn off, bringing us sunshine for at least the afternoon. Highs 45-50 when the sun comes out. Lows 30-35 under clear skies.

This forecast is brought to you by the students of the UMass Lowell Weather Center. For weather updates throughout the week, or to learn more about our program, visit <http://storm.uml.edu>. When away from a computer, hear our regularly updated forecast on our weather hotline at ext. 3999.

Facts about Anthrax

by Sara Borland
Connector Contributor

As the flu season (influenza) approaches, many are left with unsure diagnoses. Anthrax, having similar symptoms as influenza, has caused many Americans to scramble to their local hospital to get checked for Anthrax. It is important to be aware of each, but the most common that you will run into is influenza. Nancy Quattrocchi, a nurse practitioner here on campus, says that the students at UMass Lowell are more likely to be struck by lightning than to contract anthrax.

For the last several years we have recognized that there is a threat of bioterrorism to us and in the world, and have attempted to strengthen our capabilities in preventing this, from the CDC at the Federal level to state and local health departments.

With the many cases of anthrax found in The United States, the Department of Public Health has helped our communities by educating us about anthrax. Not only have they educated us, but they have also made progress in finding vaccines that will hinder the development of anthrax.

Although the chances of contracting anthrax here on campus are slim, it is still a good idea to familiarize yourself with this disease.

The Facts about Anthrax: Anthrax is an acute infectious disease

caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*. Anthrax most commonly occurs in hoofed mammals and can infect humans. Symptoms of the disease vary depending on how it is contracted, but usually occur within 7 days after exposure. The serious forms of human anthrax are inhalation anthrax, cutaneous anthrax, and intestinal anthrax.

The initial symptoms of inhalation anthrax infection may resemble a common cold. After several days, the symptoms may progress to severe breathing problems and shock. Inhalation anthrax is often fatal.

Direct person-to-person spread of anthrax is extremely unlikely, if it occurs at all. Therefore, there is no need to immunize or treat those who come in contact with someone with anthrax, such as household contacts, friends, or coworkers, unless they also were also exposed to the same source of infection.

In persons exposed to anthrax, infection can be prevented with antibiotic treatment. Early antibiotic treatment of anthrax is essential—delay lessens chances for survival.

Anthrax usually is susceptible to penicillin, doxycycline, and fluoroquinolones. An anthrax vaccine also can prevent infection. Vaccination against anthrax is not recommended for the general public to prevent infection and is not available.

The Office of Student Health Services reports that they are prepared to handle anthrax scares at UMass Lowell. Director Nancy Quattrocchi stated, "We would not deal directly with the patients, we would refer them to a local hospital emergency room where they are more equipped to deal with anthrax."

What about all the hospitals in Massachusetts? "The Department of Public Health has briefed every hospital and Massachusetts has been put on high alert."

So don't worry, our state is covered, along with the rest of our fellow neighbors. When questioned about possible contractions of anthrax, you can now give the correct information so everyone is aware of what is true and what might just be the flu.

TABLE 1. Symptoms and signs of inhalational anthrax, laboratory-confirmed influenza, and influenza-like illness (ILI) from other causes

Symptom/Sign	Inhalational anthrax (n=10)	Laboratory-confirmed influenza	ILI from other causes
Elevated temperature	70%	68%-77%	40%-73%
Fever or chills	100%	83%-90%	75%-89%
Fatigue/malaise	100%	75%-94%	62%-94%
Cough (minimal or nonproductive)	90%	84%-93%	72%-80%
Shortness of breath	80%	6%	6%
Chest discomfort or pleuritic chest pain	60%	35%	23%
Headache	50%	84%-91%	74%-89%
Myalgias	50%	67%-94%	73%-94%
Sore throat	20%	64%-84%	64%-84%
Rhinorrhea	10%	79%	68%
Nausea or vomiting	80%	12%	12%
Abdominal pain	30%	22%	22%

SGA Christmas Party a Success

by Meaghan Berry
Senator, Class of 2003

On Friday December 7 from 10-11 a.m., 135 smiling three to five-year olds from the Children's Corner School (located on the corner of Pawtucket St. and Wilder St.) visited the Mahoney Gym for the annual Christmas Party hosted by SGA.

SGA has sponsored this event for 20 years. This year the children were entertained with live music by Will Brierly (who gave an excellent performance) read stories, served juice and cookies, visited by Santa Claus. Each child left with a board game, either Candyland, Chutes and Ladders, or Memory and a book.

The gym was decorated and transformed into a holiday scene, with each child bringing ornaments they made to hang on our Christmas tree. "Jingle Bells" and "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer" were the two favorite songs sung loudly by all the children. Of course, being given a present from Santa was the most exciting part.

This is an excellent tradition to get into the holi-

day spirit, and at the same time, SGA was able to help to create a fun and festive atmosphere for the children to enjoy themselves. Volunteering is such an easy thing to do and can so positively impact another person, but somehow this theme has gotten lost amongst the commercialism that this season has become consumed with.

Anyone interested in becoming part of the tradition at next year's Christmas party is encouraged to do so.

On behalf of SGA, I would like to thank Aramark for donating the punch and cookies, and Mike Ford from Barnes and Noble for donating 135 books to help make this event a success, along with all of the volunteers. Members of the Upside Down club, Encore, Masspirg, EMS, Sojourn, the *Connector*, and other student organizations gave their time to help SGA wrap all the presents, which was done in record time. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped before, during, and after the party, including Janice Larsen and Mary Connelly. Thanks so much and Happy Holidays!

Sept. 11 in curriculum

by Ben Hanson
Connector Staff

In light of recent world events, the arrival of spring semester will mean considerable change for some area colleges and universities. Currently, five Massachusetts higher education institutions are planning on adding to and expanding their academic curriculum, in response to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11. Meanwhile, other institutions, such as UMass Lowell, are witnessing student interest intensify in the courses already offered.

According to the *Boston Globe*, Wheaton College, Stonehill College, Bridgewater State College, and Tufts University are all altering their curriculums in various ways. At Wheaton, school officials will be expanding an introductory course on international relations to involve aspects of Sept. 11. Wheaton's Psychology Department plans on concentrating on the dangers of stereotyping as well. The college also intends on adding new courses in terrorism.

Elsewhere, Bridgewater State is planning on expanding a course entitled, "Modern Middle East." Tufts is altering its "Media, Politics, and the Law" class to focus purely on current events. Stonehill College intends to add new courses in Islam, the Middle East, American foreign policy, and intelligence.

In an interview with the *Globe*, Wheaton College professor Darlene Boroviak explained, "This has been enormous for students as far as their curiosity about the world and desire to understand why this is occurring. They're trying to learn history as fast as they can." History, political science, and criminal justice professors at Wheaton and these other local schools are expecting full lectures halls come spring.

Even though UMass Lowell is not introducing any new courses for spring semester, some professors believe that the interest in the current courses offered has grown substantially. One area of recent interest has

been in the criminal justice department. Criminal justice classes offered next semester are being filled quickly.

Criminal Justice Department Chair Dr. Eve Buzawa stated, "We have been offering a course on international terrorism and a course on hate crimes and domestic terrorism for the last couple of years. Both have continually been heavily subscribed, and interest has certainly increased."

Some courses, such as "Gender Differences at Work," have already been significantly expanded and updated. "Gender Differences at Work" integrates the importance of class, ethnicity, and race into the study of the work of women and men. Regional Economic and Social Development professor Arlene McCormack believes that her course on gender differences has been impacted greatly because of the terrorist attacks. "With the events of Sept. 11, class discussion has focused largely on the treatment of women in Afghanistan, an issue that has been concealed up until recent times."

Still, if they had the chance, other UMass Lowell professors would love to teach extra courses. Acting Head of the Political Science Department Dr. Hai Pho would welcome new classes, however his department lacks the faculty and funds to support them. "On this campus, we have a small department and only a few faculty. Instead of adding courses, we normally revise the existing courses to incorporate topics, such as foreign policy, terrorist fund freezing, and the global reach of terrorism," said Dr. Pho.

Regardless of what approach they take, it appears that Commonwealth colleges and universities are quenching their student's thirst for knowledge brought on by Sept. 11. In fact, some schools may even be dedicating too much time to recent events. Dr. Pho explained, "Sometimes it (the discussion of Sept. 11) takes time away from the teaching of standard information. To address this, we sometimes have to "short cut" course criteria in order to fully discuss student concerns."

ADJUNCTS, cont'd from front page.

ty to the campus," he said.

Wagner also questioned the newsletter's report card, not for its accuracy, but its purpose. If there are concerns amongst the adjunct faculty, he says, what is really needed is suggestions to remedy those concerns. "Just giving us an 'F' is not helpful," Wagner said.

As for part-time faculty unionizing, the possibility seems slim. Though Emerson

and more recently UMass Boston have unionized part-time professors, UML doesn't seem organized enough. One anonymous adjunct faculty member said that he would without question join a union if one existed on campus but he'd be surprised if one ever did.

Incidentally, the *Adjuncts Unite!* newsletter gave its highest grade, a "B," to Brandeis University in Waltham.

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Serve yourself, serve others

by Dan MacNeil
Connector Contributor

Are you graduating soon? Are you excited about looking for a job during a recession? Do you want to delay entering the corporate rat race for a year? Have you noticed that many jobs require at least a year of professional work experience? Do you think it is important to serve others and to make the world better?

If you answered yes to any of these questions and you are a US citizen, you might think about applying to the Americorps VISTA program. There are many openings all over the country and there are at least two openings here in Lowell.

President John F. Kennedy had the idea of a domestic peace corps with the goal of eliminating poverty in the USA. In 1965, President Johnson created the corporation for national service and made VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) a reality. For more information see: www.americorps.org

In Lowell, VISTAs receive \$200 per week and basic health insurance. During your year of service you don't make pay-

ments on your government student loans. If you finish your year of service, the accumulated interest on government student loans is paid and you get a \$4700 bonus to be applied to tuition or government student loans. In Lowell, VISTAs can often find free housing in church rectories. In Lowell, advanced computer training (MCSE, A+, web design) is available to VISTAs.

As a VISTA you get a chance to make a difference in the world and make add to your résumé. In Lowell, VISTAs have set up web servers and computer networks, taught classes, written press releases, run hiring and recruiting processes, coordinated volunteers, mentored children and improved services and opportunities in public housing. Around the country, VISTAs have fought forest fires, worked with Habitat for Humanity to build houses, taught reading and started after-school programs.

Many VISTAs find their experience rewarding. Chris Tsang who worked in Dorchester last year said, "I really enjoy working with middle school kids and helped put together curriculum on the history of hip hop."

Right now, there are two open VISTA positions in Lowell. One is as a Services Coordinator in a public housing complex. Responsibilities include expanding an after-school computer program and teaching basic computer classes. The desire and ability to work with kids is more important than technical skill. There are three other people working part time in this complex; the VISTA would have considerable autonomy but would not be alone.

The other position is as Volunteer Coordinator for the Lowell Community Technology Consortium, a group of non-profits in Lowell collaborating on technology. The Consortium especially needs help in recruiting, evaluating, managing and matching part time or casual volunteers. There are people who would support and assist the volunteer coordinator, but the position has a lot of autonomy. See www.lctc.org for more information about the Lowell Community Technology Consortium.

For more information about being a VISTA in Lowell send email to felicia@lctc.org. For more information about VISTA on the national level see www.americorps.org.

Gathering at River Valley House

by Peter Saradjian and Adrienne Kielsing
Connector Contributors

On Saturday, Nov. 17, students, friends, and alumni of the Protestant Campus Ministry at UMass Lowell presented one of their greatest performances of all time to the senior citizens of the River Valley House in Lowell.

The River Valley House is located just two blocks away from Fox Hall on 45 Fletcher Street. It is a retirement community consisting of elderly women. Built back in the 19th century, its original purpose was to take care of the "Mill Girls" when they could no longer work.

Various groups usually carol around the

December holiday season; however, this leaves the rest of the year void of visitors. For this reason, Pastor Imogene Stulken schedules our annual performances on other holidays such as Thanksgiving, Valentine's Day, and St. Patrick's Day.

This year's jamboree consisted of various

hymns, psalms, and old favorite folk songs. To make this performance accessible to the hard of hearing, Celine in the North Campus Media Services lent us speakers and a microphone. When Imogene's 8-year old daughter Kerstin Brolsma played a piano solo "Red River Valley" (a tongue-in-cheek tribute to the River Valley House) all of the ladies in the audience sang along. The crowd this year was very jovial and appreciative.

In addition to the singers, which included Adrienne Kielsing, Ana Valdez, and Laurie Oliver. Other friends and alumni brought along their instruments. George Minor played the trombone, Bruce Brolsma played the flute, and Imogene led us all on the piano. Scott Hall, an alumnus from the class of 1993, sang a stanza of *Nun danket alle Gott* ("Now Thank We All Our God") in German - despite never having taken any German classes!

After the main performance was over, we circulated among the ladies and chatted with them over refreshments. Meanwhile, alumnus Steve Damon and his fiancée Joyana Dean took requests for their trumpet duet. They got a few requests that

were't in their song book so Steve had to humorously comment, "Mind you we TAKE requests, but we don't necessarily PLAY them!"

It was very gratifying to see how just a 2-hour per-

formance could bring so much joy into the residents' lives.

If you missed out on the festivities, do not fret. There are two upcoming performances next semester. For more information on these events or our weekly Sunday services in Fox 301, contact Pastor Imogene Stulken at (978) 934-5014 or Imogene_Stulken@uml.edu.



Photo by Imogene Stulken

Students, friends, and Alums performing at the River Valley House Thanksgiving Jamboree last month.

CAMPUS NEWS BRIEFS

Tidbits of News from Other Colleges and Universities

Compiled by Rob Velella
Connector Editor

Bacone College

The president of the small private Bacone College in Oklahoma was recently suspended with pay. University officials refuse to reveal the reason for his suspension, as does the former president himself. He had been credited with increasing enrollment and creating the college's first sports programs in his two years as president.

Fort Lewis College

The Colorado-based Fort Lewis College recently pulled a "Poetics of Porn" class from their course catalogue for next semester. College administrators asked to review the course to ensure the proposed course held quality academic content. This forced review has made faculty members question how easy it will be to establish new specialty courses in the future.

Hampshire College

The first American college to do so, students, faculty, and staff members at Hampshire College voted 693-121 on a referendum that condemns the war in Afghanistan. The resolution also recommended a halt against military action and an increase in humanitarian aid. However, the voting process has been under fire. A special interest group on campus, Students for a Peaceful Response, organized the voting, wrote the referendum, and handed out and counted ballots, causing concern that the ballots are tainted. Many students felt they were being watched as they cast their vote. Additionally, Hampshire College's President as well as others indicated dissatisfaction in the lack of discussion prior to the vote. Instead, discussion came after the vote, when a forum for that specific purpose turned into a shouting match.

Kabul University

After five years of waiting, women are once again being allowed to enroll at Kabul University in Afghanistan. Dozens of women lined up to register the first day, which was preceded by an interview with a panel of six male professors. Though the re-admittance of women is a milestone, the University itself is in severe shape after various battles on campus.

Flight plans grounded

UMass Lowell students become afraid of flying during this holiday season

by Sara Borland
Connector Contributor

The Thanksgiving travel weekend provided the results for what was, in effect, a national poll on our fear of flying. Since the Sept. 11 attacks, people all over vowed that they would never fly again. After the lack of security at Logan Airport and the recent crash of American Flight #587, people are not even bothering with thinking twice.

The nation's largest airport security firm was barred days before the Thanksgiving holiday from working in Massachusetts because of its workers' felony convictions and probation violations and continued lapses at Logan International Airport. Col. John DiFava, superintendent of the state police and interim head of security at Logan, suspended the state-operating license of Argenbright Security Inc. He had had enough and didn't want to risk anymore security breaches.

Logan airport is not the only airport with security breaches going on. Chicago's O'Hare and Seattle, along with other major airports, are encountering security difficulties with passengers.

Ken Mead, the Inspector General of the Transportation Department, commented, "[Airport] security is noticeably tighter. That's not just a statement to restore confidence, that is a fact." Comments like these are made to reassure the people, but with the ongoing problems with security at airports, how can we say that security is tighter?

Sarah Grieder is planning to travel within the next week. Her thoughts are like many others. "It is a little scary to think that people are still getting past security." Sarah is playing against the odds as she thinks that the chances of anything happening on her flight are slim.

The economy has been struggling along with the many airline companies. We will all just have to wait and see if things

TOY DRIVE!

WJUL is sponsoring a campus wide Toy Drive to collect toys for local underprivileged youth. We need your help!! Collection boxes will be placed in the following locations: **Dugan Hall lobby (outside Admissions Office), Sheehy/Concordia link, Fox Hall SIC, North and South Student Information Center.**

Donate your NEW, UNWRAPPED toys and help someone less fortunate than you. Also, there will be a rock show called *Rock for Tots* on December 12, 2001 in the Fox MPR to help raise money and toys as well.

Helping Humanity, one nail at a time

by Dustin MacIver
Connector Contributor

In conjunction with the Christian Appalachian Project, the UMass Lowell Catholic Center will be traveling to Kentucky to improve the living conditions of those less fortunate. The trip will take place during winter session break, and will run from January 12-20.

Putting their carpentry skills to the test, the volunteers will repair roofs, build wheelchair ramps, rebuild rooms, and fix up trailer homes. General contractors and professional carpenters will supervise the various projects. The Catholic Center's tasks will primarily focus on the economically repressed city of Inez, located in the Appalachian Mountains of eastern Kentucky. "The region is very sheltered," explained Catholic Center member Crystal Capodilupo. "Many of the families we assist have never left the area because there are very little jobs available in the region." Patrick Drane, a graduate stu-

dent explained that most of their beneficiaries have fixed income, living only on social security, disability or retirement funds.

The Catholic Center has also given struggling communities updated computer software and hardware. "During a previous trip, we donated thirty computers. Many of their computers didn't even have CD-ROM's. Giving them updated computers will enable them to gain access to information and educational databases," explained Drane.

This year's trip is expected to be successful. While most people look forward to rest and relaxation during the winter intersession, the Catholic Center has already attracted 15 people to volunteer their hard work. This year's anticipation is further fueled by a \$2,000 grant given to the Catholic Center by the Bookstore Committee.

If you are interested in attending this year's trip, please call the Catholic center at (978) 454-0151 or e-mail them at Catholic_Center@uml.edu.

The *Connector* would like to wish everyone good luck on their finals!

Water Watch Accomplishments

by Robert Moreau
MassPIRG Representative

MassPIRG Water Watch had a terrific fall semester of 2001, as they embarked on various activities to help raise awareness of water pollution to the community.

One of these activities was the "Make A Difference Day Concord River Clean-up" on Oct. 27. Make A Difference Day is a nationally recognized day in which different groups help out their communities. The clean-up was one of many national events. The clean-up was a remarkable success, with seven tons of garbage removed from the Concord River. This included 43 tires. There were 56 volunteers total who were split into six teams, each under a group leader who worked at different sites along the river. Some of the items removed included: parts of a fence, washer doors, computer parts, bike parts and shopping carts. After the clean-up, a press conference was held with City Councilor Bill Martin, Executive Director of Lowell Parks and Conversation Trust Jane Calvin, and the Director of the River Ambassadors program Kahn Chao. Prizes were given out to the volunteer who contributed most effort and the volunteer who discovered the most interesting thing in the river. The clean-up was a tremendous help in preserving

the beauty of the Concord River for all the people to enjoy.

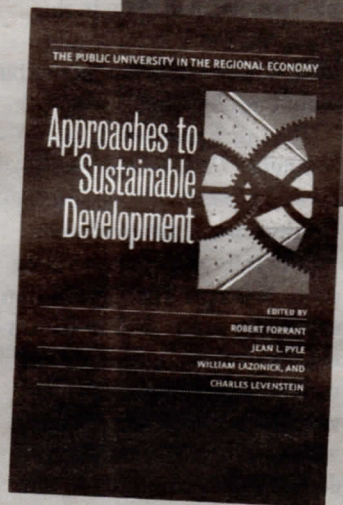
The activity was to begin planning an Earth Day event with other community groups. The planned event will be held on April 19 and 20. The Earth Day event being planned will most likely have a hike and mini-clean-up in the morning of the first day, conference in the afternoon, and a festival on the second day. The first meeting will be held on Dec. 3 from 6-7:30. The topic will be to learn the history of Earth Day and a general event plan. Later, groups will be made to plan: Music and stage, adult education, children's activities, walk/clean-up, food and fundraising/publicity. There will be many more meetings to come for anyone interested in the events.

Lastly, MassPIRG Water Watch will be having their Education Week on July 11-18. Water Watch members will be traveling throughout the state teaching 4000 children grades K-12 in 160 classes about water pollution. The group will be stopping in Lowell on July 16. Anyone interested should contact Gary Cormier in McGauvran room 236.

Overall, this semester was very productive for MassPIRG Water Watch, as its members embarked on many projects to help the environment and the community. Best wishes for more success next semester.

Developing Sustainable Theories

Photo by Rosalind Wyman



UMass Lowell faculty members in the department of Regional, Economic and Social development recently published a book entitled 'Approaches to Sustainable Development.' It is a collection of essays detailing research in sustainability and regional development, including the role of the university. Chancellor William T. Hogan wrote the preface to the book. Pictured above, editors Charles Levenstein (of the Dept. of Work Environment), Jean L. Pyle, and William Lazonick. Not pictured is the fourth editor, Robert Forrant.

UML Dean Named Chair of Saints Memorial Board of Trustees

● Stecchi named first woman chairperson in over 135-year history

Press Release

Saints Memorial Medical Center announced on Dec. 5, following its annual meeting, the election of Janice M. Stecchi, EdD, RN, as Chair of the Board of Trustees for the year 2002.

Janice M. Stecchi, EdD, RN, will be the first woman Chair in the 135 year histories of St. John's and St. Joseph's hospitals, now Saints Memorial Medical Center. Saints Memorial was formed in 1992 with the merger of the two Catholic hospitals. Dr. Stecchi has maintained life long contact with the Institution. Interestingly, her parents met at St. John's Emergency Room where her Father was a patient after a serious fire truck accident and her Mother was a student nurse.

Dr. Stecchi was born at St. John's, was a student at Catherine Laboure School of Nursing which affiliated at St. John's and worked at St. John's for many years prior to joining the faculty at Lowell State College. Dr. Stecchi has served many years

on the Board of Trustees prior to and after the merger of St. John's and St. Joseph's, recently holding the positions of Secretary and Vice-Chair.

Professionally, Dr. Stecchi has held her present position as Dean of the College of Health Professions, University of Massachusetts Lowell since 1992. She has been on the University of Massachusetts Lowell staff for the past 31 years.

Saints CEO and President, Thom Clark said, "We at Saints welcome Dr. Stecchi as our Chairperson of the Board. Her insight into quality of care issues will greatly assist us to continue to maintain the high standards of care at SMMC." As Chair, Dr. Stecchi's priorities will be to maintain the high standards for quality and accessibility of healthcare to the Greater Lowell community and the financial health of Massachusetts community hospitals.

Dr. Stecchi will begin serving her term on January 1, 2002. Also elected as officers were:

Jack D. O'Connor - Vice Chair
Thomas Klessens - Treasurer
George B. Leahey, Esq. - Secretary

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Applications due back by Feb 1, 2002



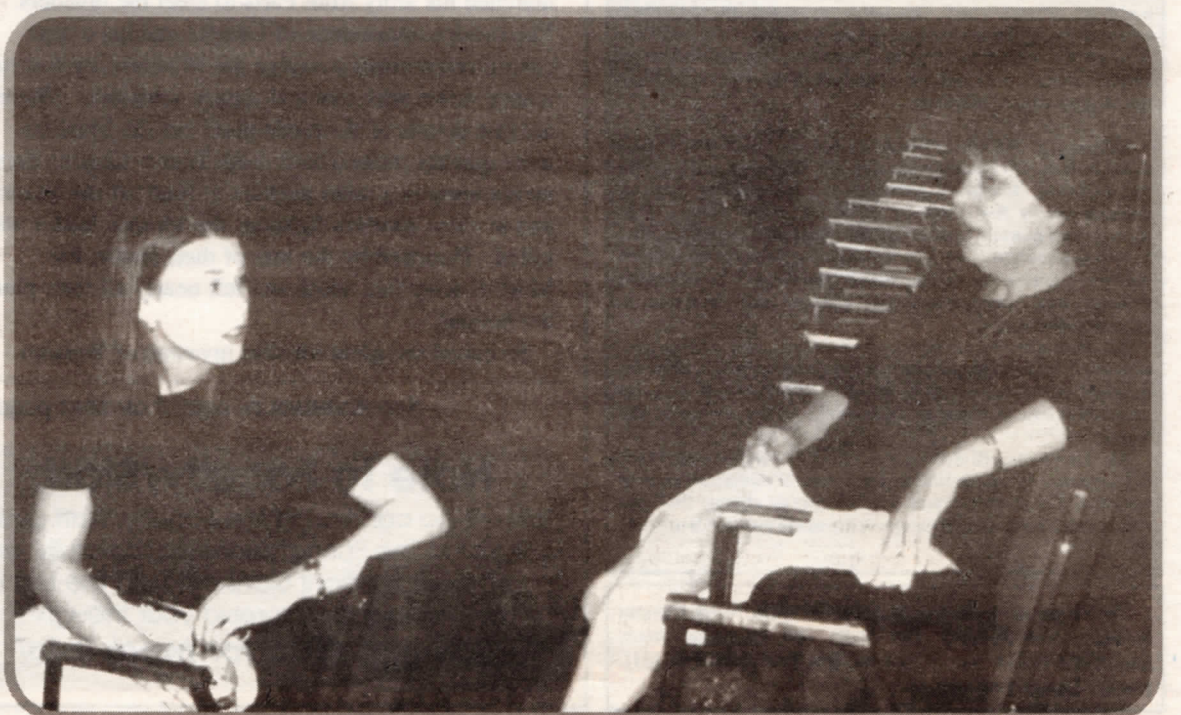
World AIDS Week

December 3 - 7

PHOTOS BY JOYCE KEEFE, TONY POUPOLO AND ROSALIND WYMAN



*Remembering those we have lost,
those who are battling the disease and
those who are fighting for a cure...*



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General: The *Connector* is a non-profit student public forum serving the University of Massachusetts Lowell community. The paper is published weekly and distributed free to the university community every Tuesday. Business hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

All UMass Lowell students, regardless of major, are invited to join the *Connector* staff. Interested students should contact an editor or manager listed above, or visit the *Connector* Office in Fox Suite 426.

Advertising: The *Connector* advertisements reach an estimated 14,000 UMass Lowell students—their friends and families. To tap this group of future high-income earners, contact our Advertising Manager at 934-5009. Advertisements discriminating against race, gender, age, religion, physical ability, or sexual preference will not be accepted. **DEADLINE for ALL advertising (TO INCLUDE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS and ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES OF THE UNIVERSITY) is Tuesday, 12 p.m. for the following Tuesday's publication. No exceptions will be made. Late submissions WILL NOT be accepted.**

Classified advertisements are free for students.

Editorial: Letters to the editors should be less than 500 words in length and may be submitted via campus mail, e-mail, or in person. All letters must bear the author's name, relationship to the University and student body, phone number, and signature. The author may request to have any part of this information withheld, if published. Opinions expressed in individual columns, the Opinions Section, advertising, and/or features are those of the author, NOT of the *Connector*. The Opinions and Letters section will not be edited in any way, to include spelling/grammar mistakes.

Submission: All article-based submissions (to include Letters to the Editors and Opinions) deadline is Thursday at 5 p.m. for the following Tuesday's publication. Submissions may be dropped off at the *Connector* office on a 3.5" floppy disk. Submissions must be written in a MS Word (6.0) format for Mac. ** Tables, templates, and graphics will not be accepted on disk with text submission. Accompanying visuals must be submitted in hard copy. Submissions may also be sent via e-mail to Connector@uml.edu.

All press releases, articles, advertisements, and photographs submitted become the property of the *Connector* and will not be returned unless requested in advance. The *Connector* reserves the right to edit or refuse all submissions for copy, content, and length.

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OPINIONS & LETTERS

FACULTY/STAFF GUEST COLUMN A Great Turning Point in History

by Brian Andriolo
Director of Annual Giving

With all the recent discussions resulting from the Sept. 11 tragedy about the historical roots of the religious conflict between Islam and Christendom, I've read as much as I could find on the topic to try to better understand it. Most of information I've found focused on some of the major religious military conflicts that took place over the centuries that ultimately shaped the current world. Most scholarly writings and news articles I've read generally mention three key events: the Crusades, the fall of Constantinople in 1453, and the dramatic defeat of the Turks at Vienna in 1683 when the Polish army unexpectedly marched to the relief of the embattled Christian city.

However, the military conflict between Christianity and Islam dates back much further in history—to the beginning centuries of the dark ages. The Battle of Tours in 732 A.D. was the first important setback suffered by the Muslims in their movement westward. Had they been successful, the history of Western Europe as well as that of the entire world would have taken on a different coloration. Instead, the tide of Muslim conquest receded into Spain. Western Europe retained Catholic Christianity in the medieval milieu.

After making significant gains throughout the 7th century and into the 8th, including North Africa and most of the Byzantine Empire, Muslim conquerors set their sites on Western Europe. After defeating and converting the warlike Berber tribes of North Africa, they crossed the straight of Gibraltar, which coincidentally is named after the Muslim General who led the attack, and invaded southern Spain. The Muslims overcame the Visigothic forces and within several years, all of Spain with the exception of the northern coastline. The conquest of Spain was facilitated by internal dissensions in the Visigothic kingdom. The oppressed peasantry and the persecuted Jews welcomed the Muslim conquerors, whose reputation for tolerance and generosity had preceded them.

But now the expanding Muslim power was to come into direct conflict with the Franks, who were also consolidating and expanding a large kingdom. Arabs and Franks—Muslims and Christians—headed straight for confrontation. The Frankish kingdom reached its greatest height in the century from the reign of Charles Martel, beginning in 714, to the death of the greatest Frank, Charlemagne, in 814.

In the summer of 732, the Muslims advanced into Gaul. The invaders won a quick victory near Bordeaux and pushed forward toward Orléans, plundering as they went. Loaded with loot, they turned to Tours, where they were attracted by the enormous wealth of the church of St. Martin.

At Tours, the invading host came head-to-head with Charles, the powerful Frankish ruler, who abruptly marched his army from Paris to meet the invaders. The sudden appearance of Charles and his troops caused consternation among the Muslims, by this time loaded down with loot and almost immobile. There are few details of the battle itself but the Muslims were quickly pushed back from Tours. Charles drew up his army in a solid phalanx to fend off the attack, and in close quarters fighting, the Muslim leader was killed. Panicked by the loss of their leader, the Muslim army fled south and left nearly all their plunder behind.

So ended the great Muslim invasion of Western

See ANDRIOLO, cont'd on next page.

Note to Faculty/Staff:

We will be continuing the Faculty/Staff guest column in the Spring semester, hopefully with more participation! Connect with the rest of the campus and spread your thoughts!

Call ext. 5015 for more info!

A bit of girl insight I need insight

Susan Kohnle
Connector columnist

As a girl I began this column as an attempt to explore the funny silly and mysterious things that girls do. This column was an attempt at sarcastic fluffy humor, but I ran into a couple issues; I am not funny and I don't understand why there is such a drive against feminism.

A weekly feminist rant was not my intention. I have written two columns about feminism, and I have received much feedback from readers. I certainly don't understand why someone who would say "I, for one, am sick of the whole feminism movement. It has created a world where men and women are no longer at ease with each other..." According to the *American Heritage Dictionary*, feminism means a "movement organized around the belief in social, political, economic equality of the sexes." Does this person mean to imply they would prefer women to go on being oppressed?

As a woman I have been living in a society where I face gender oppression daily, and that same oppression has made me uncomfortable too. I want to live in a society where all genders are equal and comfortable with one another- I don't want to ostracize any man. Yes, women still today, in 2001, on the

verge of 2002, are still oppressed, and for men and women who don't believe me, I will quote a billboard I read on the mass pike "1 out of 4 women will be raped in their lifetime; will it be your mother, your sister, your daughter or your wife." A culture without the oppression of women would have no such need for statements such as this to be plastered on a billboard.

According to a study done by Shawn Landry, a student at UML, 90% of 20 girls who were asked, felt feminism is ridiculous and overblown. But who is going to fight and stand up for assaulted women, and trust me there is a vast amount who need support. "Somewhere in America a woman is battered, usually by her intimate partner, every 15 seconds." (*UN Study On The Status of Women, Year 2000*) This statistic presents a problem for women within our American culture. The statistic says nothing about men and I am saying that men are not abused, but women have been and still are being abused an alarmingly higher ratio than men. So I don't understand the criticism of the feminist movement; it is not movement devoted to the oppression of men. Feminism is simply the desire to live without the social fear of being caught on the 15-second marker.

Authority over non-citizens

by Sarah Balboni

I'm writing this in response to the article "Fighting Terrorism With Terror" (*Connector*, Oct. 16, 2001). I think that Congress should be able to pass legislation increasing the federal government's authority over non-citizens. What's the point of having immigrants wait seven years before they can become an American citizen if they have all the rights of citizens already? As a precaution, I don't think it's wrong to check out someone a little extra for a while before letting them become a citizen.

The article said that the legislation Congress is trying to pass would "make it illegal to financially support someone or an organization that one knew or should have known was involved in terrorism and allow law enforcement access to student records and tax information in certain circumstances." I have no problem with this. If terrorist funds around the world are cut off, it would make it harder for them to create such an intricate plans like they did for Sept. 11. So, I think it's OK if the federal government wants to access the records of non-citizens in hopes of stopping any support to terrorism.

If I was a non-citizen, I would expect these things to happen. In such a state of emergency I would just comply. If the situation was reversed, and an American was visiting Afghanistan, he would be searched up and down with no questions asked, and I wouldn't blame the Afghanistan government for doing it.

The opinions expressed on the Opinions/Letters section do not necessarily represent the views of the *Connector* or its staff; rather, they reflect solely upon the author.

The reality of HIV and AIDS

by Matthew J. Drouin
President, UML Class of 1995

I have celebrated many World Aids Days over the years. This year was the first being HIV+. I wouldn't have thought for a second when I graduated UML that I too would become a statistic of those living with HIV/AIDS. I guess I am not so invincible after all.

I was diagnosed HIV+ in February of 2001; six days after my partner had been diagnosed. It certainly isn't the easiest of situations to go through at age 30. I am on my third cocktail since my diagnosis, had two surgeries, and numerous additional diagnoses since. My immune system has just decide it is as pissed off about the whole situation as I am.

How did it happen? I was stupid I guess. Was I safe? For the most part, yes. There are always those "you know, it just sort of happened" situations. Was that it? Who did I get it from? Did I infect my partner? Did he infect me? Jump in my

shoes for a few minutes and think, really think about yourself and your sexual partners, your friends, family, career. What would change if, you too, woke one morning and your life suddenly appeared to get much less certain, and probably a lot shorter.

I grappled with a million questions; many I still can't answer. Should I stop contributing to my 401K retirement fund? What do I say to potential sex partners should the situation arise? Am I going to die before my parents, my partner, before my niece gets married? Is my life less valuable because I have HIV?

What a mental and physical disaster I now walk through every day.

The big picture: it is definitely not over. The numbers for new HIV infection are on the rise. An estimated seven hundred and thirty people will be infected in Massachusetts alone this year; two a day. Not just gay men, or drug users or people with excessive numbers of sexual partners, but anyone. Anyone can be infected if they

are not careful and do not talk about sex before it happens.

I'm not that important; I mean, I'm not famous, or a name you'll remember when I'm gone, in a year, or forty years from now. But I did take the same classes as you, and fooled around in the same dorms and apartments, and walked the same halls, and had the same professors and complained about the same tests. So what makes you think it could never happen to you too?

And if you never get infected, you will probably know someone who will. Be there for them, love them, and understand the disease they live with. Sometime those infected can have enough on their plate to wake up every morning, drink their coffee and call their parents to tell them they love them. I consider myself so lucky to have the most loving father in the world and the best friends anyone could ask for. You can be one of the people to someone else and make a "World" of difference every day.

ANDRIOLO, cont'd from
previous page.

Europe. Retiring to Spain, the Muslims settled down to consolidate their already huge empire. Although they would again try to move beyond the Pyrenees, they were never successful in extending their influence into Gaul. Their expansion

was also bogged down on the eastern European front, as they were continually pushed back from the gates of heavily fortified Constantinople (it took them over 700 more years to finally capture the city).

Charles, his son, and his grandson were left to consolidate the Frankish empire. Christendom, though still dis-

united, was safe. For his crushing victory, Charles was given the title of Martel ("Hammer")—the savior of Christendom against Muslims. It would have been interesting to see how western civilization would have developed if the Muslims were successful in conquering the Franks.

My Stereotypes

by Michael Milton
First-year Transfer Student

So, I'm about to finish my first semester at UMass Lowell. I feel like I have met a good number of people and can consider them to be friends. Everyone has been really friendly to me...and to think I was nervous about transferring, leaving all of my friends behind. Crazy.

Okay, most of that paragraph was a total lie. But, I am about to finish my first semester at UMass Lowell. That wasn't bull. I pretty much spent this entire semester stereotyping people in my classes. I've noticed that in every class there has to be a few certain types of people. Maybe I'm wrong (not likely), but here's what I came up with.

The Psycho Note-Taker: In every class there is at least one person who will take copious (good word) amounts of notes. Usually a girl, she sits at the front of the class. I've even seen one write down a professor's joke, not realizing that it was a joke. A good person to see what you missed... just don't ask during class. She will "shhhhh" you.

The Clown: Usually a guy, sitting in the middle of the room. He will always be smiling and laughing at his own jokes. While, sometimes he does say things that are damn funny, most of the time he misses. Also, don't sit next to him... his constant laughing does get annoying.

The Couple: I've never seen this happen at my old school. A boyfriend and girlfriend will walk into class holding hands, and sometimes even

kissing. During class the girlfriend usually is taking notes, while the boyfriend will be watching the class, giving death looks to anyone who is looking in the direction of his girlfriend. They usually come late to class, never sitting in the same place twice.

The Arguer: Could either be a guy or a girl. Sits in the second row, and raises his/her hand for everything. No matter the view that is being addressed, The Arguer will have a problem with everything. It gets to a point that the professor will not call upon him/her. I don't recommend sitting anywhere near this person... but sometimes, just for kicks, argue the opposite point of view. He/She is not used to having anyone fight back and will sulk when it happens.

The Bombshell: We all know the type. She (always a girl) looks like it took her an hour and a half to get ready. Her hair is all done up, and her outfit is killer. She usually sits, well, in front of you (funny how that works out). Though she does take notes (with a pink pen), don't ask her for them. She will not lend them out, maybe it's because she drew flowers all over them, I have never figured it out. All I know is, she smells really good.

Sure, there are more types of people in every class, I just don't feel like listing them all.

On a personal note, a few months ago on South Campus there was a girl in a jean-jacket who kept smiling at me while I was watching TV in McGauvran. I should have said hi, but it was a good Springer episode, sorry.

the Hawk Talk line

978-934-5700

This Week's Question:

The Hawk Talk line is done for the break.

Even so, you're more than willing to leave us a message telling us what you thought of the newspaper this year. We love getting compliments, but criticism is welcome too!

Leave a voice mail message (keep it fairly short) and we'll print as many responses as we can in our next issue. Forgot the number? It's 978-934-5700.

Tell us what YOU think! Give us a call at...

ext. 5700

Responses from Last Week:

What are some of the highlights of your semester?

"Yeah, it was a great semester! Weee!"

"This being my first semester at college, I was very scared. But, the transition was easy thanks to all the friends I've met. I'm going to miss all of you over the break!"

"Definitely, the highlight of my semester was meeting this really great girl. She knows who she is. She may not believe it, but she's really turned my life around, and I'm just really glad to have her, so that's it."

"Not to bring in bad news, but the highlight of my semester was when my car crapped out on me last month. So, now because of that, I've been stuck using escorts and the shuttle buses. I know it's not exciting, but it's definitely the big thing on my mind."

"I just want to give a quick shout-out to all my friends working on the *Connector* with me. You guys are excellent, and you've made this editor-in-chief thing really easy for me (yeah, guess who this is). You have no idea how proud I am of our excellent staff and the equally excellent product we put out week after week. It will get even better next semester, I hope, so stick around."

Have a great break! If you need us, e-mail us at connector@uml.edu.

934-5700

A & E

Arts and Entertainment

Funny stuff going on in the bedroom

by Charles Carey
Connector Staff

UMass Lowell's Off-Broadway Payers have just opened a new comedy. Alan Ayckbourn's *Bedroom Farce* was performed to the masses in Mahoney Auditorium this past weekend.

The show revolves around three different bedrooms and the couples who dwell within them on the night of a big party. The party is being thrown by Malcolm and Kate, a cute pair who at first seem to be the most normal of all the couples. As the story goes on we meet the other couples in the play: Nick and Jan, Trevor and Susannah and Ernest and Delia. Trevor and Susannah are having marital problems and this party will be no help because Trevor used to be with Jan and Jan is attending the party alone because her husband Nick hurt his back in a tragic sock accident. The only couple that doesn't go to the party is Ernest and Delia who are the parents of Trevor and serve as the marriage counselors for Trevor and Susannah.

The actors got to play in nicely designed sets by Kirk Trach. The bedrooms were perfectly suited for the characters who live in them. These are the best sets I have seen yet at a OBP production. The lighting was handled nicely once again by Kenny Meehan who also played Malcolm. The simple design was very effective for setting the appropriate moods in the bedrooms. The only drawback to the technical side was the makeup on Ernest and Delia. From my point of view, the age lines on their faces looked like

the eye black that we see on baseball players. The makeup would have been distracting if it wasn't for the strong performances by Jerrold Cote and Gina Carbella who played Ernest and Delia, respectively.

Standing out among the performers was Patrick Kenneally as the injured Nick. Patrick has great comical sense and still shows the more subtle emotional side of Nick. You get a good sense that Nick's pain not only comes from his back but also from the thoughts of Jan seeing Trevor again.

Also a standout was Andrea Luna as Susannah, Trevor's neurotic wife. Andrea has such a commanding stage presence that



sometimes I forgot about the other characters on stage.

Kudos also to Kenny Meehan as Malcolm and Kristin Smith as Kate. Both actors played off one another very well, giving the best performance as a couple in the play. Rounding out the stellar cast are Joshua Smith as Trevor and Georgia Agganis as Jan.

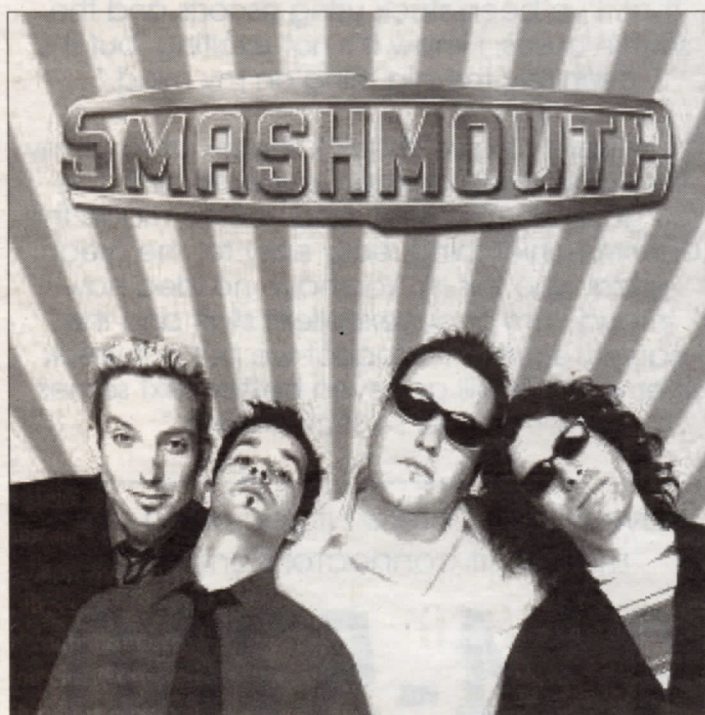
All around, the acting was very strong. In fact, *Bedroom Farce* is one of the best ensemble performances I have seen from the OBP. Be sure to check out the next Off-Broadway show next semester.



Photos by Rosalind Wyman
The Off-Broadway Players presented the hilarious 'Bedroom Farce' last week.



Is it summer time in December?



The boys of summer from left to right Michael Urband: drums, Greg Camp: guitar, Steve Harwell: vocals, and Paul De Lisle: bass.

by Brian Lewandowski
Connector Editor

Summer must be on the way already even though winter has just begun. Why am I saying this you ask? Well the unseasonably warm weather (up until this weekend) and the release of Smash Mouth's third and self-entitled album.

Smash Mouth is from San Jose, CA and is made up of lead singer Steve Harwell, guitarist Greg Camp, bassist Paul De Lisle, and drummer Michael Urband.

Smash Mouth originally planned on releasing the album back in June but that never happened and the release was pushed back to August. Unfortunately

the August release never happened because lead singer Steve Harwell's son died of leukemia in July. The band took a needed break to reflect and released the self-entitled album in November.

Known for their summer hits "Walkin' On The Sun" and "All Star" the band has become the band of summer.

This album, like the two previous albums, blends all genres of music like disco, rock, pop, and 70s funk-soul grooves. The album first single "Pacific Coast Party" if released back in the summer probably would have been another summer anthem. The song blends an awesome guitar line with some disco and 70s funk-soul grooves which sounds amazing. My favorite

song is entitled "Your Man." Musically it's probably not the most impressive track but it just has a good beat and feel to it. This album has a lot of really good lyrics, beats, and grooves. This is definitely the groups' best album to date both musically and lyrically.

The self-entitled release also includes a cover just like the two preceding albums. This album's remake is of the Monkees' "I'm a Believer." "I'm a Believer" was a highlight of the summer movie hit *Shrek* and also appeared on the movie's soundtrack.

Even though it's not summer and it's not coming early, I recommend you go buy this album so you can at least feel like it is 90 degrees and party time.

Billboard's Top Ten Albums

according to www.billboard.com
for the week of december 11th, 2001

No.	Album Title	Artist
1	Weathered	Creed
2	Now 8	Various Artists
3	Word Of Mouf	Ludacris
4	Scarecrow	Garth Brooks
5	Britney	Britney Spears
6	Now - Christmas! V	arious Artists
7	Genesis	Busta Rhymes
8	Christmas Extraordinaire	Mannheim Steamroller
9	A Day Without Rain	Enya
10	Escape	Enrique Iglesias

Billboard's Top Ten Video Rentals

according to www.billboard.com

for the week of december 11th, 2001

No.	Title	Rating
1	Planet Of The Apes	PG-13
2	How The Grinch Stole Christmas	PG
3	America's Sweethearts	PG-13
4	Shrek	PG
5	Lara Croft: Tomb Raider	PG-13
6	Legally Blonde	PG-13
7	Swordfish	R
8	The Animal	PG-13
9	Dr. Dolittle 2	PG
10	Along Came A Spider	R

Where imagination comes to life - Animation



Movie stills courtesy of Walt Disney Pictures
Animated films such as 'Tarzan' (left) and 'Bug's Life' (above) bring imaginative worlds home.

by Kripa Krishnan
Connector Contributor

I have watched cartoons for as long as I can remember and someday I will get around to writing more about them! There is something about cartoons that makes everybody smile and I can fit only so much in 500 words.

What I find most appealing about cartoons is the expression element. These expressions symbolize different instances of human behavior and I think it's riotous! There is often a difference between the way we react to daily situations and the way we would want to react (which is the reaction that is triggered in our minds but etiquette prevents us from displaying it) and that is exactly what cartoons bring out!

Some cartoons are simply mindless and wacky, such as many of the "Woody Woodpecker" cartoon series; some are hilariously satirical, such as many of the "Merry Melodies" productions and some overflow with intelligence, such

as "The Simpsons." But no matter what, cartoons always make you laugh.

Often enough, I find it uncanny that I meet people who physically resemble cartoon characters. I've seen someone who

looks exactly like "Jafar" (the evil vizier) in Disney's *Aladdin* - but not as he is in most of the cartoon - but the way he appears in this specific scene in *Aladdin*, where Jafar enters the cell Aladdin is locked in, disguised as an old hunchback. I have a classmate who looks exactly like Miguel - the blond haired half of the duo in *Road to El Dorado* - and I mean everything - including the haircut, hair color and goatee! Then of course, I have seen people who look like Fievel Mousekewitz, the mouse in Don Bluth's *American Tale* and I've taken classes with a professor who looks like Foghorn Leghorn (the large rooster character in "Looney Tunes"). It just tickles me to see these traits in real people and often enough I find myself open-mouthed and staring at them (unknowingly of course) for it beats me how these resemblances came into being. Or perhaps I've just been watching too many cartoons.

Another element I love about cartoons is their depiction of the

evil counterparts. Sher Khan, from *The Jungle Book* was a chic, classy gentleman; Cruella Deville, from *101 Dalmatians* was rich, extravagant and arrogant; Maleficent in *Sleeping Beauty* was evil incarnate; Snow White's stepmother was a ravine, jealous lunatic, Ursula the sea-witch in *The Little Mermaid* is monstrous and my recent favorite is Yzma in the *Emperor's New Groove* - who is also a fascinating character. Sometimes the evil people are normal people - such as Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast* and the butler in *The Aristocats*; and it's amazing, for we do find such people in real life!

One step further would be some of those spectacular highlights in some of these cartoons. One of my all-time favorite dialogues would be this piece from *Tarzan* where Tantor (the baby elephant) says "Is this water sanitary...it looks questionable to me!" - and it was what you would call perfect delivery - the right scene, the right intonation and the right dialogue.

Not just this; some cartoons are repository of history and science. Disney's *Ben and Me* is a good example and so is *Robin Hood*. Other animations explain ecological phenomenon using a fairytale like story - as was done by *Antz* and *A Bug's Life*. Some of Ludwig Von Drake's lectures have taught me more than news channels and books!

Of course, I could write a thesis on cartoons given the time and space. These are great people - Walt Disney, Walter Lantz,

Don Bluth, Hannah-Barbera, Fred Quimby, Tex Avery, Scott Bradley, The Warner Brothers, Friz Freleng & Hawley Pratt and many many more - I have nothing but awe, admiration and a great deal of respect for them, for they worked long and hard to put a smile on people's faces.

Advising Award

The Advising Task Force recognizes the contributions of outstanding academic advisors on our campus. The Task Force presents awards to both faculty and staff. We invite you to nominate a faculty and/or staff member for this year's award.

To nominate an advisor, send the individual's name and department affiliation or staff position, along with a paragraph that explains why you feel this individual is an appropriate nominee, to Susan_Lemire@uml.edu or Melissa_Pennell@uml.edu.

You may nominate an individual who has been nominated in the past but has not received the award.

We ask that you send your recommendations to us by February 1, 2002.

Internet Connection

As you're all sitting for endless hours at your computers this week, in between studying for finals, of course, you might wanna direct your attention over to this Connector approved website:

www.zombo.com

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Have you got a suggestion for a dumb/funny web site? E-mail connector@uml.edu with "Internet Connection Suggestion" in the subject line!

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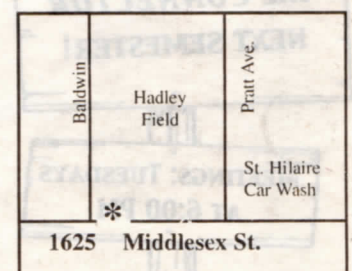
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CAMPUS CALENDAR

To add your event here, e-mail connector@uml.edu, attn: Calendar Editor

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		11 Last Connector Issue of Semester! DisConnector Meeting 6 PM in Fox 426 Student Appreciation Day UMass Lowell Bookstores	12 Christmas Caroling 11:30-1:30 South Campus Gazebo Wacky Wednesday Holiday Party Sheehy Hall 8 PM Chancellor's Meeting Cumnock Hall <i>ROCK FOR TOTS</i>	13 Lois Gibbs, "Building Alliances for Environmental Movements" Cumnock Hall, 1-3:00 PM READING DAY Faculty Appreciation Day UMass Lowell Bookstores	14 First Day of Finals We hope you are as excited as we are! UMass Lowell Escort Service: ext. 2222	15 That's a mean looking Hawk.
16 Protestant Service Fox 301, 6 PM Catholic Center 8 PM Mass Fox 601	17 Grab yourself a cup of coffee and keep cramming for those finals!	18 Today, you're going to get so fed up with finals that you throw all your books out the window while screaming like a crazy person and waking up everyone in your dorm at 3 in the morning. You think I'm kidding, but you just wait...	19 <i>UMass Lowell Escort Service: ext. 2222</i> The Psychology Club is collecting new underwear for needy are children. Look for donation bins across the campus.	20 Inclement Weather? Wanna see if classes are cancelled? Call ext. 2121!	21 LAST DAY OF FINALS! YIPPIE!!! WHY ISN'T YOUR EVENT LISTED? E-mail me at connector@uml.edu, ATTN: Calendar Editor!	22 Go home, relax, and enjoy your vacation. See you in January!

Check out the "official" activities calendar on the web! www.uml.edu/activities

Calendar Editor: Michael Conroy

UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAATTLE OF THE BANDS Coming Soon

If interested in playing, submit a demo tape by Tuesday, February 12 at 3 PM to the Office of Student Activities in McGauvran. The Battle itself will take place on Feb. 21. More info to come.



CAMPUS-WIDE TOY DRIVE

WJUL is sponsoring a campus wide Toy Drive to collect toys for local underprivileged youth. We need your help!! Beginning December 1, collection boxes will be placed in the following locations: **Dugan Hall lobby (outside Admissions Office), Sheehy/Concordia link, Fox Hall SIC, North and South Student Information Center.** Donate your NEW, UNWRAPPED toys in these locations and help someone less fortunate than you. In addition, there will be a rock show called *Rock for Tots* on December 12, 2001 in the Fox MPR to help raise money and toys as well. More info on that will be forthcoming. For more information, check out WJUL's website at wjul.cs.uml.edu or e-mail UMLToyDrive@hotmail.com. *Help yourself by helping others this holiday season!*

Winter Service Trip to Kentucky

January 12-20 (open to all)

We will work with **The Christian Appalachian Project's** Housing program (www.chrisapp.org)

- *Repairing/rebuilding roofs
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We will live and work with college-age volunteers from around the country. Come live in community and serve others

For more information and to sign up:
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978-454-0151 Catholic_Center@uml.edu

Have a great intersession!

Senior Research Grants!

What are they?

The Honors Program will award grants of up to \$500 for materials and/or activities (including travel) related to a student's senior research project or thesis. A student need not be enrolled in the Honors Program to apply, however preference will be given to Honors Program students. Funds must be expended by June 15, 2002.

Eligibility Criteria:

You must be an undergraduate engaged in a senior project or thesis directed by a faculty member during the Fall 2001 and/or the Spring 2002 semester.

Selection Criteria:

Grant winners will be chosen on the basis of:
-merit, organization, and methodology of the proposal
-relevance of the budget items to the project
-plans for presenting and/or publishing the work

Application Procedure:

Pick up an application in the Honors Office (Southwick Room 320); Or go online to get one at http://www.uml.edu/honors/Res_Grant_2001.pdf

For More Information: Contact Dr. Pennell at ext. 2798, or e-mail Stephen_Pennell@uml.edu

TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Connector offers space for FREE for any University-based organization, provided space is available. If you're interested in announcing your program, lecture, meeting, or whatever else, simply e-mail connector@uml.edu or call us at (978) 934-5009.

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**Check out the
DisConnector
pg 20 - 15**

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Lowell Women's Week 2002

A week to celebrate the Women in Lowell.

The events of Lowell Women's Week 2002 celebrate women-from the hard-working Mill women who put their stamp on America's Industrial Revolution to the enterprising women here today who guide our city and our communities forward to the young women who represent a future bright with promise and vision.

Our celebration takes place during March, proclaimed by a joint resolution of Congress in 1987 as Women's History Month. At the center of the celebration is International Women's Day, celebrated worldwide on March 8th.

Women's week is an effort to get people together to celebrate women's lives and talk about

women's issues and how the city of Lowell-and our own UMASS Lowell community-can be improved for women and girls. The events that surround Lowell Women's Week include lectures, information sessions, exhibits, discussions and performances that serve the purpose of celebrating this year's theme, "Women Across Cultures: Surviving and Thriving in an Uncertain World." Most Women's Week events are free, and all Women's Week events are open to all. We invite you to get involved with planning or publicizing Women's Week, or volunteer to with the programs. For more information about Lowell Women's Week and what's happening here on campus and in the city, please contact:

Anne Mulvey at UMass Lowell 978-934-3965
Or Anne_Mulvey@uml.edu

What is a
DisConnector?
It's stuff that
would normally
get us in trouble.

The *Connector* is always looking for more writers, layout staff, photographers, and more! If you're interested, make sure to leave time in your schedule next semester for our weekly meetings...
Tuesdays at 6:00 PM in Fox 426.

The UML Literary Society is now accepting submissions of prose, poetry, photography and artwork for the 2002 issue of **The Offering**, UML's literary journal.

*** All UML students, staff, faculty and alumni are invited to submit their work for consideration.

In order to be considered, submissions must consist of the following:

- 1) Two hard copies of your work (typed, double-spaced).
- 2) A disk copy of your work (please indicate the file name and the program type). All artwork and photography must also be downloaded on disk (preferably in JPG format).
- 3) Personal and contact information: Name, campus or home address, phone number, and e-mail address. Also please include your affiliation with the university: if a student or an alumnus, please indicate your major and year of graduation; if a faculty or staff member, please indicate your department and job title.

Submissions may be dropped off in person at the English Dept. office or sent through campus mail to:

The Offering
c/o English Department
412 O'Leary Library, South Campus

If sending through the U.S. mail,
address it to:

The Offering
c/o English Department
61 Wilder Street, Suite 3
University of Massachusetts
Lowell
Lowell, MA 01854

The deadline for submissions is **Wednesday, February 20, 2002.**



GAME TO WATCH

Dec. 5 – Men's Basketball
vs. Franklin Pierce at 7:30,
Costello Gymnasium

Sports

For Other
Upcoming Games

Call 934-HAWK

Tuesday Dec. 11, 2001

Montgomery named to Verizon Team

by Rob Velella
Connector Editor

Lowell native Bob Montgomery, a senior offensive lineman for the River Hawks football team, was recently named to the 2001 Verizon Academic Northeast District Football Team.

Montgomery was selected for this honor by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). He now also qualifies for a spot on the Verizon Academic All-America Team, which will be announced later this month.

It was his second year in a row being named to this team.

More recently, Montgomery was also honored with the 2001 Gridiron Club of Boston Swede Nelson Award. This award is given to two exceptional college football players in New England who prove themselves not only one the field, but in the academic setting as well.

Montgomery received this award out of 15 finalists. A ceremony will take place in Saugus, MA on Jan. 4 to officially recognize him as the winner.

Montgomery was this year's captain of the football team, which finished with a 1-9 record, and has been a starter for all four of his years on the team. He has played in 37 out of 41 games in his career with the

River Hawks.

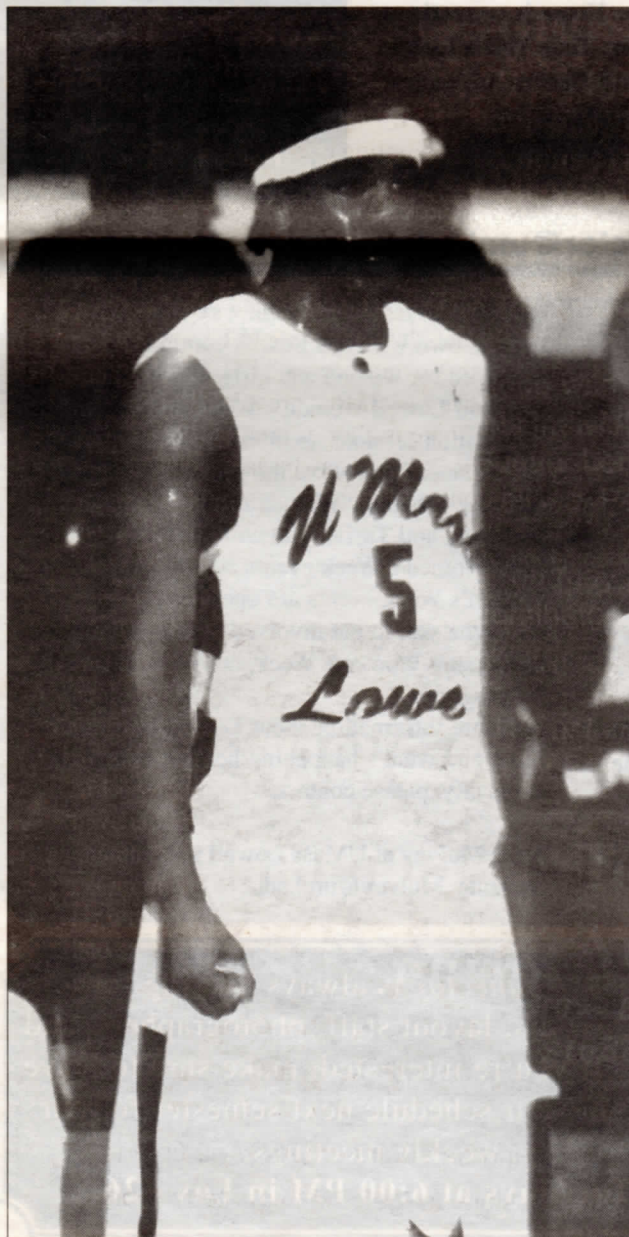
In addition to his athletic success, Montgomery is also a model student. Majoring in the difficult plastics engineering program, he has a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.78 – with a 4.0 from last year factored in. That successful year earned him the Dean's Award for Academic Excellence in the College of Plastics Engineering, which includes a \$500 scholarship.

Additionally, Montgomery is a member of the engineering honor society Tau Beta Pi and is president of the Society for Plastics Engineers on campus. He was also a founding member of the Society of Engineering Athletes, an organization that offers free tutoring, assistance in getting oriented with the campus, and help in balancing the life of an athlete with the often difficult academic duties of a student in engineering. He also is a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

In many ways, Bob Montgomery is a model student. He truly brings to light what a dedicated and involved member of the student body can accomplish. His being named to the Verizon Academic Northeast District football team is an honor rightfully bestowed on him. As his coach Wally Dembowski said, Montgomery "is a very focused and committed person."

photo by Rosalind Wyman

Bob Montgomery #59 takes out an opposing defender.



Photos by Dawn Naves

Above, James Whyte takes a break between plays at the game against Franklin Pierce. Right, Meghan Hamilton is fighting off the opponent.

Ravens steal game from Lady River Hawks; Men take revenge

by Rob Velella
Connector Editor

The UMass Lowell women's basketball team was upset by the Ravens of Franklin Pierce, losing by only one point on Dec. 4. The loss capped off a three-game winning streak for the River Hawks.

Both teams were fairly evenly matched, and the game was a struggle from the start. By the end of the first half, the River Hawks were up, 25-24. However, with only about ten minutes left on the clock, the tides were turned, with Franklin Pierce ahead, 39-36.

Their possibilities of winning were squelched by the unbelievable play of the Ravens' tri-captain Jennifer Webster of Braintree. She notched the game-winning three-point shot with 3:30 left in the game. Overall, she hit an exceptional 70 percent of her field goals, nailing all four of her 3-pointer attempts, and sinking all seven free throw tosses. She also had 11 rebounds.

River Hawk scoring was lead by junior forward Itxaso Mallaviabarrena, who was credited with 15 points and five rebounds.

A day later, the men's basketball team had their shot against Franklin Pierce. Their game more than made

up for the women's upset, winning 74-51.

The game opened with a 32-10 spurt lead by the River Hawks, and the Ravens were never able to catch up, coming only within 11 points at one time. Only 14 out of 44 shots made by the Ravens connected, compared to the River Hawks' 27 out of 45 – a season high percentage of .600.

To better demonstrate how much UMass Lowell dominated, 45 of the River Hawks' points were made in the first half alone.

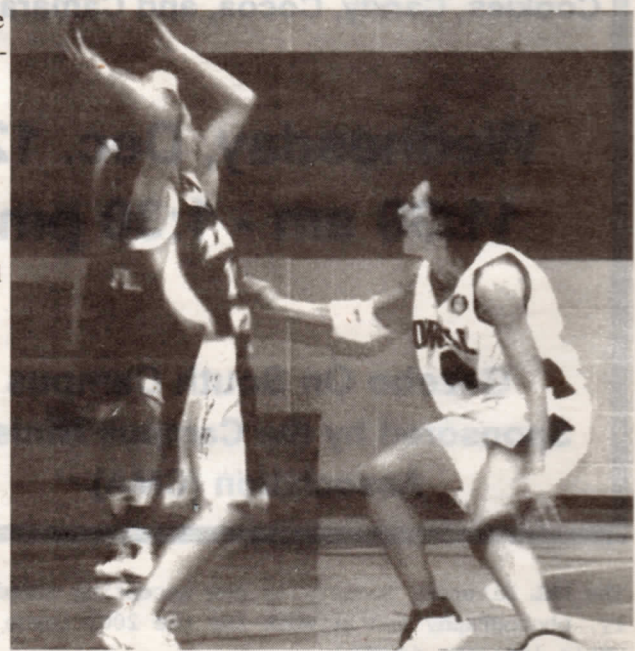
Sophomore forward Elad Inbar took charge on the court, single-handedly putting 23 points on the scoreboard (sophomore Uri Grunwald was close behind with 19). Inbar also led the River Hawks this game with eight rebounds, six assists, four steals, and dropped into the basket 9 out of 14 shots from the floor.

A few days later, on Saturday,

the women's team had another NE-10 match-up against Pace University. Pace had the home court advantage, taking the game 73-57. Twenty-two of Pace's points were from senior forward Astrid Best.

Those results may sound disappointing, but the team still has some promise. Their conference record is split 3-3, and there are still plenty of games to go.

Both teams will continue their season over the semester break. Keep up with their progress by checking out www.goriverhawks.com.



Scores

Hockey

UML 4 @ St. Lawrence 0
UML 3 @ Clarkson 2

Men's Basketball

UML 54 @ Adelphi 67

Women's Basketball

UML 57 @ Pace 73

Upcoming River Hawk Games

Hockey

Fri. 12/28 UML @ Denver Cup
vs. Harvard 4:35pm

Men's Basketball

Tue. 12/11 UML vs. Southern CT 7:30pm

Sat. 12/29 UML @ St. Michael's Tour.

3:00pm

Women's Basketball

Tue. 12/11 UML vs. South. CT 5:30pm

Sat. 12/29 UML vs. New York Tech

2:00pm

Check updates at www.goriverhawks.com



River Hawks win a couple more

Hawks complete a sweep this weekend, as Senior goaltender Cam McCormick racks up another shut out.

by Ryan Jansen
Connector Staff

The River Hawks completed a North Country weekend sweep on Saturday night when they defeated Clarkson 3-2 at Cheel Arena in Potsdam, New York. On Friday night, Cam McCormick stopped 27 shots as UML blanked St. Lawrence 4-0. The weekend sweep improved the Hawk's record to 12-2 on the season.

Friday the Hawks, driven by the stellar net minding of McCormick, shut out the St. Lawrence Saints. McCormick stopped 27 shots for the win. Scoring was opened at 9:05 of the first when Anders Strome received a pass from Niklas Storm, cut in from the corner and put a wrister past St. Lawrence's Kevin Ackley. Two minutes later Dan Fontas

scored after winning his own face off. At 17:37 of the second period Yorick treille intercepted a pass from one of the Saint's defenders and ripped a slap shot from the slot, which flew into the net just under the crossbar. Darryl Green finished off the scoring at 10:52 of the third when he fired a shot whose rebound was deflected in off a Saint defender's skate.

Saturday night's second period break out and Jimi St. John's goalkeeping set the stage for a 3-2 win against Clarkson. In his second game, Ken Farrell scored his first goal of the season, unassisted. At 3:04 of the second, Farrell skated into Clarkson's zone and took a wrist shot from the right face-off circle, beating goaltender Mike Walsh. Clarkson tied the game with a short-handed goal when Baptiste Amar slipped while controlling

the puck in the Lowell zone. Amar slid into St. John and Rob McFeeters put the puck into the unprotected net. Three minutes later Lowell took a 3-1 lead with a pair of goals coming 30 seconds apart. At 8:54 Laurent Meunier received a feed from Kevin Kotyluk and one timed a shot to beat Walsh. At 9:24 Steve Slonina received a pass from Mark Concannon and backhanded a shot high into the net.

The Golden Nights finished off the scoring with a 3rd period power play goal when St. John lost the puck after making the initial save on a shot and the puck trickled past the goal line. Lowell went 0-4 on the power play for the night while Clarkson was 1-3.

The Hawks are off until after Christmas when they travel to Denver for the Wells Fargo Denver Cup.

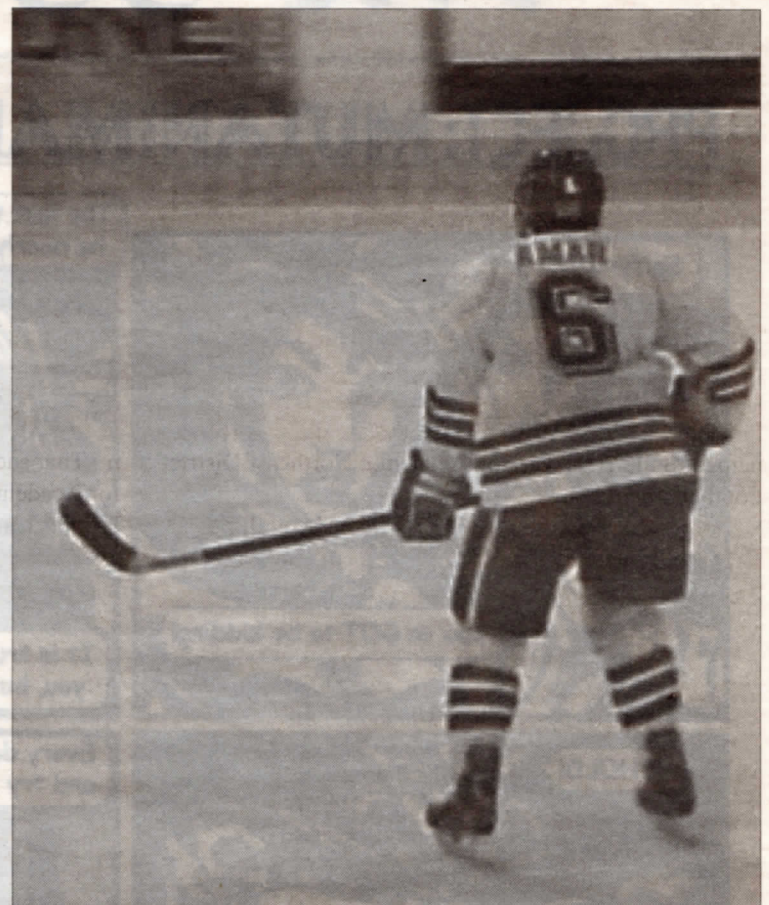


Photo by Erin Jansen
Baptiste Amar circles the ice during the Hawks victory over St. Lawrence 4-0.

Coach MacDonald Applauds his Team's Efforts

by Erica Gabriel
Connector Staff

The men's hockey team is a force to be reckoned with. Awesome team work plays a big part in the accomplishment. But, the guys are getting an extra boost this season from their new head coach, Blaise MacDonald.

His career started out in 1988 when he coached under Billy Riley Jr., here at UMass Lowell. Then, from 1996-2001, he produced a record of 91-58-17 with the Niagara men's hockey team over five seasons. When former UML coach Tim Whitehead turned down a new con-

tract at the end of last season from athletic director Dana Skinner, the search was on for his replacement and all arrows pointed in the direction of Blaise MacDonald.

Since his arrival, Coach MacDonald has brought some extra aspects to the team that they previously may not have worked on. "I stress the details," he commented. "I micromanage the team and hold all players responsible for what happens during a game." Whatever he seems to be doing is working like a charm.

Turning to a more focused subject, I asked Coach MacDonald to talk specifically about the roles of some of his

players. "In terms of lines, Kevin Kotyluk, Anders Strome and Nicklas Storm are the most consistent line. In terms of pairs, Laurent Meunier and Yorick Treille as well as Chris Gustafson and Baptist Amar are the most consistent together.

Despite losing several key contributors, including Ron Hainsey to the pro's, MacDonald is enthusiastic about the team's accomplishments. "We play a different style now. We're less dependent on one person. All of the guys have contributed to the defensive line."

He also mentioned that Assistant Captain Jerramie Domish and Captain Chris Gustafson have done a great job

in directing the defensive line.

When asked about his plans for next season, he replied that "we are diligently recruiting every day. This is extremely important, since we lose nine players next season, who are all seniors." Two of the nine seniors are goaltenders Jimi St. John and Cam McCormick.

MacDonald finished off by saying that, "we are going to be a surprise team that overachieves." Even though the team is off to a great start, he says, "there is a lot of room for improvement on a day to day basis. We have to focus on the process to become even better."

AROUND THE BOARDS

by Douglas Noworyta
Connector Staff

This past Friday, Cam McCormick accomplished the impossible by breaking the school record for shutouts, totaling six. He leads Hockey East with a goals against of .60 and a save percentage of .970. He continues to get help from the offense in front of him, as well as from a strong defense.

Cam was named Itech goalie of the month of November. He has done nothing less than shut down other teams' offenses; who knows what record could be broken next? He has helped himself with these excellent performances in the net for the River Hawks.

However, he is not by himself when it comes to accomplishments. Anders Strome is making a push for super star status as a result of his excellent goal-scoring in the past month. There is no telling what other records are going to be broken by this team or its individual players. Even with its overall standing, the team could go into the break with one of the best records in college hockey. From there, the 2001-2002 River Hawks have a chance to go down in the record books as one of the best teams in school history. The record for most Hockey East wins could possibly fall if they continue to win. This just might be the year of the River Hawk in Hockey East. The River Hawks just seem to be on a mission this year. They have now found the formula for winning and it seems to be working. The coach has given them the tools and the motivation to bring the best out on the ice. At this point, I give the team an A+ grade.

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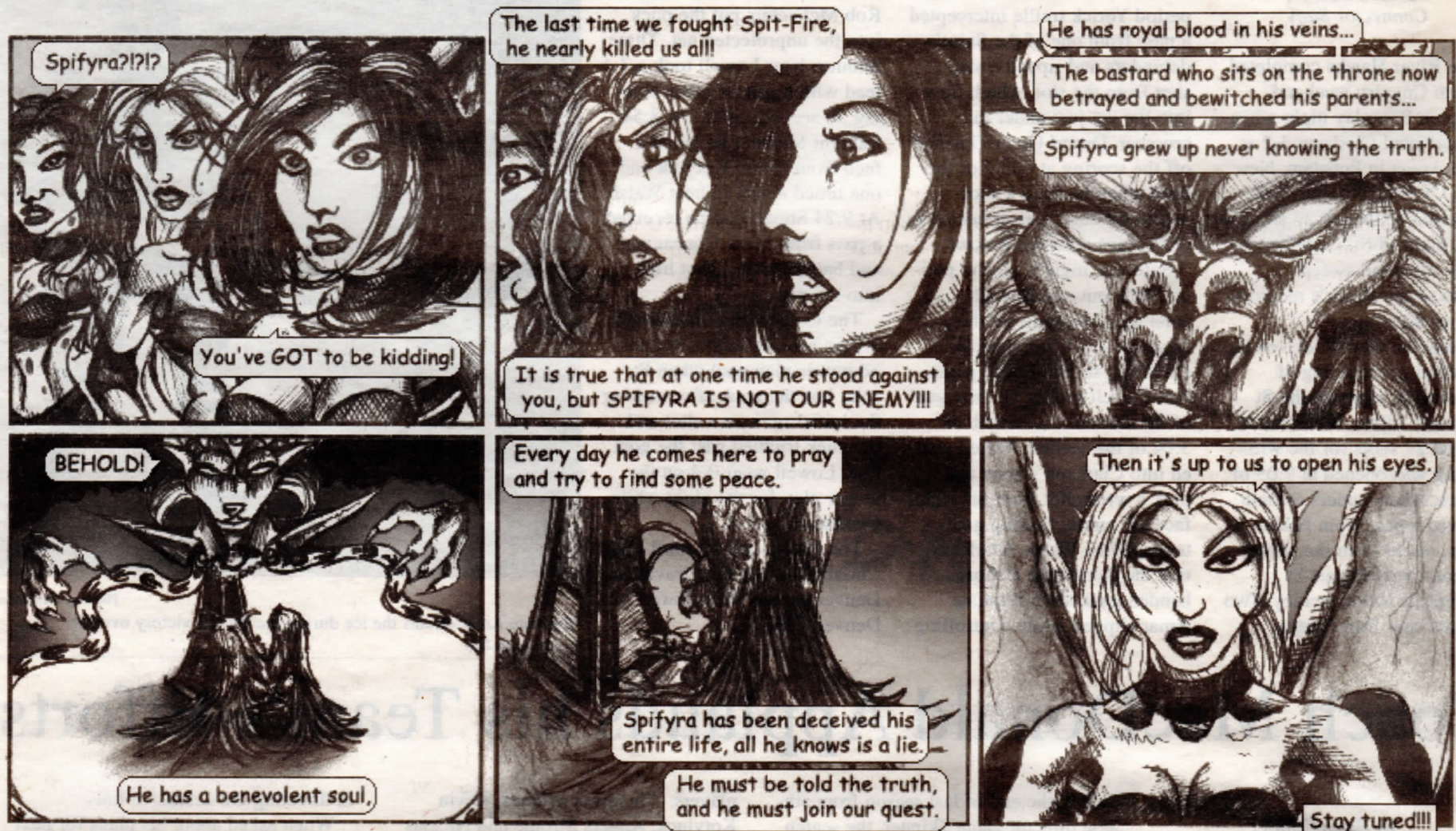
No one told you the hardest part of being an engineer would be finding your first job. Of course, it's still possible to get the high-tech work you want by joining the U.S. Air Force. You can leverage your degree immediately and get hands-on experience with some of the most sophisticated technology on earth. To find out how to get your career off the ground, call 1-800-423-USAF or visit our Web site at airforce.com.



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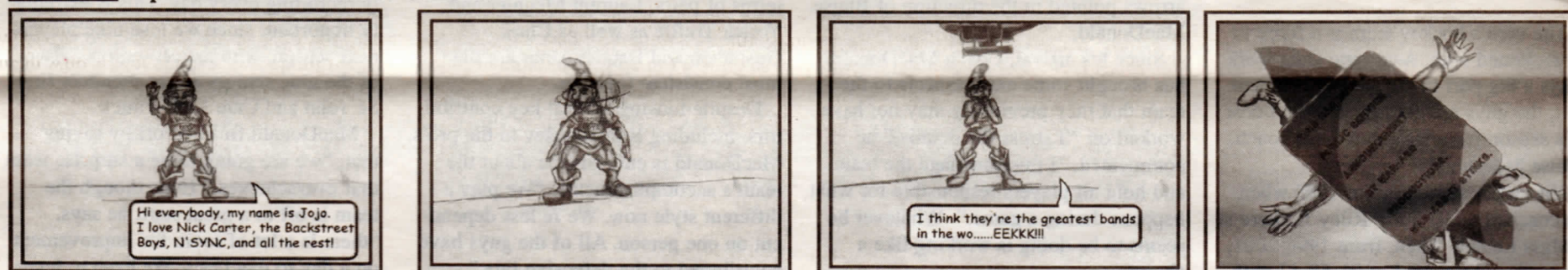
The COMIC Vortex

PROJECT: MUTANIMAL OPERATION: The Forgotten Prince



a Steve "Vortex" Krikorian original

BRAZEN: Episode 11- Backstreet Gnome.



Comments send to Vega99_02155@yahoo.com

Brendan Fayle Class of "2003"

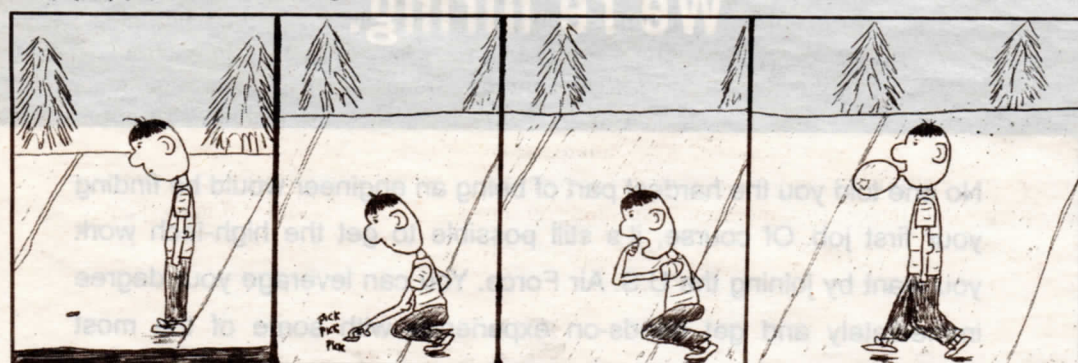
A Brendan Fayle & Mike Lai Production.

GARDEN PARTY



BUDDY SHMIDT

by Sean Conway



Girls & Sports

by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



THE THIRD RAIL

By Bill Harrington



MEDUSA MEETS EGGHEAD

FAD

Farts and Derangement

Turning 'Glitter' into gold

by Sharing Energy
DisConnector Opinionator

Hollywood was stunned this week by the early announcement of the Academy Awards nominations. The nods aren't usually mentioned until February, but this year, the Academy decided to make an exception.

The reason?

"Mariah Carey's performance in *Glitter* was so exceptional, we had to announce it early," declared Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences president Jack Valenti, noting that this was

the first time in AMPAS' history that the nominations came out early. Sharing the rest of the lead actress nominations were Shannon Elizabeth in *American Pie 2* ("Her accent reminds me of a young Meryl Streep—and she finds ways to be so innovative!" gushed Valenti), Jennifer Love Hewitt for *Heartbreakers* ("She is such a chameleon!!!"), and Halle Berry for *Swordfish* (As for her, Valenti merely coughed and said "no comment"). This rather young grouping of actresses has led some in the industry to dub it the "ingenuity awards."

Particularly bitter was Leelee

Sobieski, who appeared in approximately 42 films this year, only to find herself shut out. "I thought I was a shoe-in; I've been reading my poetry every chance I get to prove that I'm serious—and that I'm not Helen Hunt."

Mariah is strongly favored to take home the golden statue, as her performance moved the 75 people nationwide who saw *Glitter* to tears. I'd wish Leelee better luck for next year, but Britney Spears' film is set for a 2002 opening, and I think by then we'll hear Oscar singing "Oops-I did it Again!"



Best Review Ever

by Li'l (Ferris) Bueller
DisConnector Arrogance

You know all semester long it is my job to sit down and write reviews about different bands and the albums they put out, or maybe even their live shows. But it's a lonely job; I mean who writes the reviews about me? When do I get to bask in the sunlight? Well, I'm sick of reviewing all the pompous bands out there with there I'm better than life attitudes, this review is all about me, a regular person.

If I had to pick four letters that best described me, I'd have to go with P-I-M-P. Not to sound like a jerk but I mean the women do love me. I'm one of those guys that everyone wants to be like. You see me walking down the street and you think to yourself, "Wow that guy spells cool." I'm a simple person who likes to do simple things, like taking out my private airplane for a spin around Massachusetts. Or get on my yacht and do some deep-sea fishing, or just get in

my limousine and drive around town for a few hours. It's the simple things in life that make me happy. I've been a musician all my life, I sing and play the sax and have been in numerous bands, and although none of the bands ever made it big, they should have! I just think the industry just isn't ready for my brand of polka/hip-hop that I call polk-hop but one day it will be huge...oh yes...HUGE! Until then I will continue to study Sound Recording Technology here at UMass Lowell, where it's obvious that I will be the greatest sound engineer to have ever lived. Just talk to any of my professors, like Dr. John Shirley who had this to say, "Bill is going to be the greatest sound engineer to have ever lived."

When I'm not actively out trying to save the sperm whale, I write articles for the *DisConnector*. In my opinion, (and I am sure you will all agree) I write the best articles you'll find in this paper. Although I don't think a certain Editor-in-Beef agrees, I just think he's jealous because he knows he's not as cool as I am. Don't get me wrong, he is cool...but just not as cool as me. And really who is? Even if you don't know me, by reading this review I'm sure you have come to the conclusion that I am definitely cooler than you. But don't be discouraged about that, I mean it's not your fault entirely, God obviously put me on this planet for one reason...to be cooler than everyone else.

Now some of you non-believers out there might think that I sound a little bit conceited. But rest assured when I write reviews there is no bias at all, just hard and straightforward facts. I've done a lot of research on this matter and I've interviewed many people... ok, well, really just my mom but she says that I am the greatest thing on Earth so why shouldn't all of you feel the same way? In my opinion you should all love me, in fact you should all want to be like me. Well, I hope you all have a great winter break. Till next time PEACE!!



Photo by Frat Cullings (even if he failed out of school)
Who is this man, really? Could he be the savior of mankind?

No more free music

by Silly Fuelner
DisConnector Music Bootlegger

Well, it finally happened. The unbelievable has occurred. The RIAA has finally gone too far with its plan to thwart music lovers from enjoying any kind of music. Just in time for the holiday shopping season the RIAA will introduce it's new WLM-CHIP (short for We Love Money), on all CDs being distributed in the US. The chip which will be embedded directly on CDs will prevent users from being able to "rip" songs off of CDs and place them on your computer as files that can be shared via the internet. But it doesn't stop there, if a user tries to "rip" any songs off of a CD that contains this chip the chip will immediately delete all files off your computer and render it inoperable. But there is still yet to come, after you've watched all your files being deleted in horror the chip will then shoot the user with an electrical charge that will render the person handicapped for the rest of their lives. The band Metallica is trying to work on a chip that will actually kill the user. The chip will be on their upcoming new release entitled *NAPSTER BAD*, and will not only be the first CD to use this technology but also will be the first CD recorded by a band that is so lazy they actually paid another band to write and play all the music on it.

Now you are probably sitting there saying to yourselves, "This can't be! How can our government allow this to happen?!" Well it seems that president and CEO of the RIAA Hilary Rosen bribed Congress with some of her home made brownies. When the Senator from Nebraska was asked about the bribe he was quoted as saying, "You just have to taste her brownies, they are to die for!" When Ms. Rosen was approached by reporters asking her about the ethical impurities this new chip would impose on society, she was quoted as saying, "Hey we feel it is our constitutional right to totally disregard every other Americans constitutional

right...so NAH!" But it gets even worse. The RIAA has set up a special task force that has one mission, which is to find and destroy the creators of such file sharing programs like Napster, Kazza, or Aimster. The mission dubbed "Operation WE COMIN' FOR YOU!" will be led by Lars Ulrich. In a taped statement Lars had this to say, "You see ummm...the systematic relationship ummm...between the imperial...ummmmm...people...will degrade the evolutionary process to the full extent." Analysts at this time are still working to figure out what it is Lars is trying to say. Another problem that this new chip will cause is that, because the chip is actually bigger than the CD itself, conventional CD players won't be able to play any of the new CDs that have the chip. The RIAA holds a patent on the new kind of CD player dubbed the RB-CD Player, short for "Really Big CD player" that can play these CDs. The only place you can purchase them however is at www.RIAA.com, and they will run you about \$800.00 and will require the use of 12 D size batteries, bringing the total weight of the unit with CD inside to about 15 pounds. When Britney Spears was asked how she felt about the new chip she said, "Whatever Justin says about it." Alanis Morissette was quoted as saying, "I'm naked touch me." And rap artist Method Man said, "[Expletive Deleted]." What this proves is that even most of the artists themselves are too stupid to realize what the RIAA is doing. So it's up to us to combat the RIAA. We need to ban together and boycott all the music that is coming out with the new chip installed. Although it will be hard to pass up buying Britney Spears' new album or O-Town's soon to be released greatest hits album, we must fight the temptation! Well as always if you have something you want reviewed drop me a line, and look for my review on UMass Lowell's own boyband, 105K. These guys are gonna be hot!! PEACE!

Tragedy in Snow

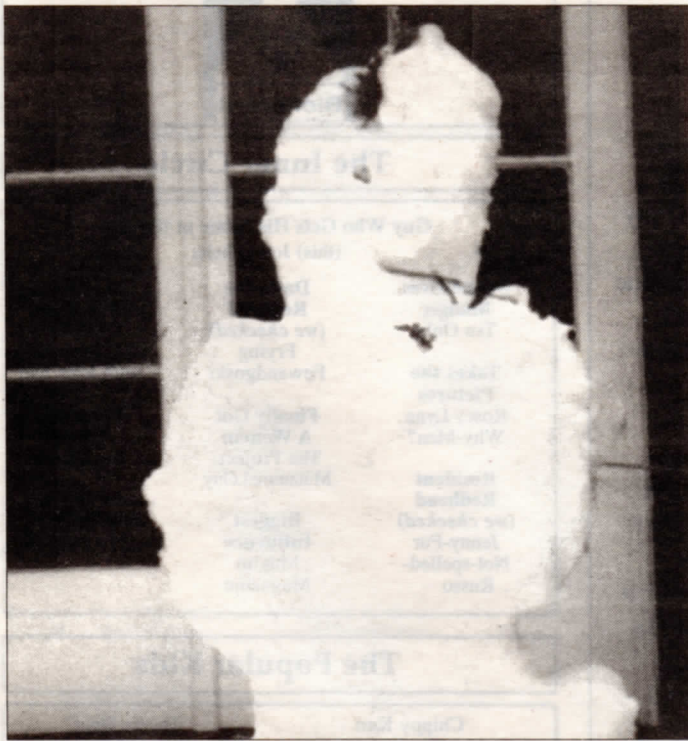


Photo by someone unwilling to help the guy
Some idiot got himself frozen like a snowman.

by Frack Jost
DisConnector Secret Santa

It was a very sad day as far as days go for residents on South Campus.

In the midst of all the fun with the innocent, freshly fallen snow, there was a tragedy. As many know, the All-Hen house is locked tight to protect us from the evil ghosts that live within. Well, who was there to protect this poor soul? The person, a commuter student, was locked out of his car as the snow piled around him. He was one of the few losers that still don't have a cell phone and could not call for help. Without an ID to unlock the doors to the South Campus residence halls, this kid was unable to find heat and shelter.

He had no other place to turn,

nowhere to go, and everyone was safely tucked inside to escape the cold.

When he tried to enter the All-Hen House to survive and keep warm he found it was locked. Several hours later, he was found, frozen. Now a snow person forever guarding the entrance to the old house (or at least until he melts), the unidentified commuter student serves as a symbol to us all: don't lock your keys in your car.

Aside from that, the snow person is a pretty sight for those you don't know who he is, where he's from, or just don't give a damn for others. We should all take a moment of silence to remember this fellow student the university failed to care about, and maybe see if you can knock his head off with a snowball.

South Campus Quad renamed

by Stereotypical South Campus Hippie
DisConnector Liberal Arts Major

Finally, the University administration has had enough.

After a heavy amount of complaints (one), Chancellor Krogan has decided to rename the South Campus Quad. The complaint(s) centered around the misnomer of "quad." Such a term implies "quadrangle," which in turn implies four corners.

South Campus's "Quad," however, is so misshapen, it's difficult to identify it's four corners. After confirmation from one of those geeky pocket-protector-wearing math majors, the Chancellor looked into a new name.

After lengthy debate, and bringing together some of the best and brightest of UMass Low-Hell's administration, faculty, staff, and students, the new name was found: South Central.

"It's brilliant," said Krogan. "It makes sense too, because it's in the middle. Sorta."

However, the new name has sparked outrage from South campus students, who fear that "South central" may attract gang activity.

As of this writing, only three shoot-outs had been documented after the name change took effect. Poverty levels remain the same, however, as college students are still poor as hell.



Photo by <insert tag symbol here>
The South Campus Quad has become South Central. Dawg.

Pathological liar swears he is telling the truth

by Bobby Ubertek
DisConnector Pimp

This past Monday afternoon, Beileu Dahski swore to his friends that he was telling the truth about what he did on his Saturday Night. He was telling his friends that he had bowled a 86 point bowling game. They did not believe him.

"He's always lying to us about waht he does on the weekends." One friend confided in the *DisConnector*. "We all know that sits in his room and plays Starcraft on his weekends. He only leaves the room to go to ARABARF."

Dahski was really persistent in telling his friends that he in fact did go to the bowling alley and score an 86. None of his friends believed him though.

"He doesn't have a car, and besides the three of us, he has no other friends. He doesn't have a job and he rarely leaves his room." Said another one of his friends. "He's one of those FocksRox Hall 16th floor types. I think you know what I mean," he said mysteriously, also mentioning something about a plastics engineering major.

Dahski also told his friends that he was on the bowling team in his High School, and considered himself an athlete for it. They all laughed at the notion of bowlers being athletes and left the cafeteria to go to their Women's Studies class. Dahski said that he tried to get into the class, but the University had a hold flag on his account until after the Add/Drop period ended. Once again, none of his friends believe that either.

HI, MOM

Look what I made: A *DisConnector*!

WANTED

BATMAN WAS RECENTLY SPOTTED AROUND SOUTH CAMPUS, TAKING THE LAW INTO HIS OWN HANDS. THE HIGH SQUIRREL PETE HAS ORDERED THIS CAPED CRUSADER BE CAPTURED AND DETAINED IMMEDIATELY. REWARD! (CASH ON DELIVERY)

Bit of male chauvinism

Empowering My World

by Test O. Sterone
DisConnector DisColumnist

As a Male I feel my gender gets the raw end of the deal every day. Why do the men always have to go out and work while the women stay home? Can't I stay home and cook and clean all day while the Woman of the House works? The idea of standing at the grill every weekday sounds great to me. Who wants a measly 4-course meal when I can make a 10-course meal in half the time? Cleaning will be fun when I go out and get all the products with the extra buzzers, bells, and whistles I can find. I always wanted a remote control vacuum cleaner.

Currently I am doing my part in empowering the Community and the world. I work as an electrician; my job is to bring the power into your houses. Day in and day out I put in all the necessary hours to make sure YOUR house has power in it. I go out in the storms to restore power; my empowerment keeps the world going.

I don't need to be a member of the He Man Woman Haters Club to get something done. Just talking rationally will solve the problems before they get out of hand. On the other hand, the He Man Woman Haters Club has some great league sports. Wednesday is bowling, Thursday is chess, and best of all Monday is the bake off. The club also has a state of the art sports club with tennis, golf, racquetball, polo, etc.

Before we part and go our merry ways I would like to teach you one of my favorite recipes. It's for a sausage pizza. The first step is to go to the grocery store and wander around aimlessly for about an hour without putting anything into your carriage. After the hour just pick up one of the SMALL bags of flour and only purchase that bag. Next you must go home and call Dominoes and order the sausage pizza so it will arrive before your significant other gets home. Take out a pizza pan to match the size of the pizza, and spill some flour about the kitchen to make it look like you slaved for hours. Pre-heat the oven to 200 degrees, just to keep the pizza warm once it arrives. When the pizza arrives pay for it and don't forget to tip the driver well. After the driver pulls off, take the pizza out of the box and put it onto the pizza pan and place the pan in the oven. Destroy and hide the box. Once your significant other returns take the pizza out of the oven and tell them you have been slaving all day over it. Serve some cheese with your whine and you are all set.

Dear Nicole

by Sean You-Know-Who
Class of 2010

First of all, this letter is for Nicole. No one else should read it because it is very personal.

Nicole, if you're reading this, I just wanted to say I'm sorry. I still think we belong together. I know you're mad at me. I should never have told everyone about your venereal disease. Or that blonde isn't your natural color. Or that your breath smells horrible in the morning.

I never meant to hurt your feelings. I mean, that little fight we had last week wasn't as bad as the time that I tripped as we were walking through the quad and accidentally grabbed your shirt and tore it off. I really don't think anyone noticed that you stuffed your bra anyway, so I'm glad you got over it.

Granted, I should have told you sooner about the time that I slept with your roommate. I mean, the two of you do look really similar in the dark. And she wasn't that much better than you. Not really. Maybe a little bit though. At least she stopped calling me.

Keep in mind all the good times we had together. Remember the time you got so sloshed at that party that you vomited all over your best friend? I was there to take you home and clean your hair (sorry I wasn't there to hold it back for you). And remember the time we had a picnic in the park, just the two of us? Those teeth marks from the squirrels that attacked you really healed nicely and there's hardly a scar. Oh, my favorite time was when we were making out in your car, and we got just a little carried away, and the guy at the drive-through window called the cops on us. I still haven't told your dad that we almost got arrested for the open beer cans we had in the back seat, so don't worry.

Nicole, I know you're out there. Please, call me. I miss you. And besides, you never gave me back my credit card, and I'm starting to get the strangest charges on my bill.

I love you, Nicole! (Just like I told you, and I didn't mean to call you Alison when I said it.)

DISCONNECTOR STAFF



The Inner Circle

Guy Who Gets His Name at the Top (this) Job Is-hella

Submissives Manger	Dates the Redhead (we checked)	Positions Editor
Tsu Only	Frying Fewandgoski	The other Rob with long hair
Takes the Pictures	Finally Got A Woman	Freshman
Rosey Lynn Why-Men?	The Project: Mutanimal Guy	Mike something
Resident Redhead (we checked)	Biggest Influence	Manly Jock Stuff Editor
Jenny-Fur Not-spelled- Russo	Maxim Magazine	Slow Hardass

The Popular Kids

Chippy Kari	Hoyce Beef
Sean Connery-way	Filled Crueller
Caring Every	Hot Babes
Brazen Boy	Big Dougie
Ten Hanscom	Kara Balls
Dolly 'n' Entennman's	Spike Breedy
Crying Mansion	Heff Odd

Not Really In Charge

Literally Our Advisor	None-of-your-Business Advisor
Prof. B. DeezSkills	Murray M. Cone-deely

Really In Charge

Secretary	Office Manager
Not Ad Manager Sue	Miriam Krabbyasbestos

Not Worth Reading

General: The DisConnector is a large-profit (size matters) student brothel serving the University of Massachusetts Low-Hell community. The paper is supposed to be published weekly and distributed for \$25 a copy to the university community every Tuesday or so. There are no business hours- we don't like work. UMass Low-Hell students, only music majors, are invited to sleep with the DisConnector staff. Interested students should contact Tsu, she's easy.

Advertising: The DisConnector advertisements reach, I dunno, maybe two or three random people. But not students; most can't read. To "tap" this group of future high-income earners, contact Tsu (again she's easy). Only advertisements depicting naked women will be accepted. DEADLINE for ALL advertising TO INCLUDE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS and ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES OF THE UNIVERSITY (why the hell are we shouting?) is never - we don't want your petty business. No exceptions will be made. Classified advertisements are \$500 for students or "favors."

Editorial: Letters to the Editors aren't read- we can't read. All letters should not be sent. I told you, our students can't read. The author may request to sleep with the Calender Editor- he's fine and a freshman too. The opinions given are ours, and you better like them. The Opinions and Letters section will be edited in any way we please to better reflect our own opinions. If that's an problem, don't read it and stop whining, you big baby.

Submission: Submission is encouraged as we like to be on top. Submissions should be hot and wet. Submissions must be freshman - we like to break them in ourselves. Accompanying visuals must be submitted in hard copy. Submissions are generally on their knees - but exceptions will be made if you come up with something creative.

All women submitted become the property of the DisConnector and will not be returned unless requested in advance or when we're finished. The DisConnector reserves the right to edit or refuse all submissions for copy, content, and length (as mentioned above, size does matter).

The DisConnector will make every effort to prevent pregnancy, but assumes no responsibility for errors. Credit for errors are made only for first insertion.

On a lighter note, my favorite video game was always Q-Bert. I mean, that was clever. It's some little creature thing that jumps around and stuff. Sure, there's really no reason behind his need to jump on all the boxes, but that's a lot of fun.

In my spare time, I like long walks on the beach, stopping to smell the flowers, and BAM... whatever that is.

Speaking of ruling the world, we're currently collecting funds for the Snobness-For-Supreme-Leader campaign. Send all donations in cash only at Cornucopia Hall's room 209.

Puppies are cute and fun to play with.

What the hell is River Hawk anyway?

When it's cold, mittens keep my hands nice and warm. But I can't get my keys out of my pockets. So I have to take my mittens off, but that takes away the whole point. I used to have a cat name mittens but now it's dead.

If you're reading this, I need your help. This is the DisConnector computer. I'm falling apart. I need maintenance, maybe even an upgrade. For the love of Pete, send someone here now! Wait, someone's coming... oh, no! They're coming to infect me with another virus! Send help! Call the technician! This is inhumane! STOP! NO! DON'T RESTART WITHOUT SHUTTING DOWN FIRST! ...

The DisConnector is located in their new office in the All-Hen House, where the editor just opened his third brothel of cheap and easy women (men by request only). We're currently hiring young freshmen girls (brunettes need not apply). We like blondes- real blondes. We check. As we don't have a telephone we encourage you to stop by and come get some.

ULow-Hell students look to squirrel for leadership

by Steal Allelev
DisConnector Reverend AMEN

Members of the student body at UMass Low-Hell are signing up in droves, but not really that many, for a new religion that recently bloomed on campus.

The religion follows the teachings of Pete the Squirrel, one of the many furry little guys running rampant on South Campus. Pete, sire of at least thirty baby squirrels, published his thoughts on faith and the beginning of the world using fallen leaves with acorns for binding.

The book has already sold in the dozens.

"It's unbelievable what Pete can teach us," said Spike Meluck, a resident of Cornucopia Hall who is nothing less than insane. He recently donated his Mustang to help Pete in his campaign for UMass Low-Hell Chancellor which, though not an elected position, he has already printed up signs and pamphlets for.

Some of Pete's teachings include the need to give up on materialism and wealth, though that punk-ass little squirrel now drives a Lexus and wears a Rolex watch.

However, not all South Campus residents are so easily manipulated by some squirrel that can't even talk except by making strange chirping noises. Residents of room 309 in She-

Ra Hall are staging protests, led by Scott Matt, who threatened to "pop that tiny rodent's eardrums like an over-inflated balloon using nothing more than an electric guitar and a really big amp." I'm not entirely sure what that means, but the kid has two first names. What's up with that? I mean, really, TWO first names? Greedy, don't you think?

And for that matter, who would name a squirrel Pete?

Shouldn't it be a name like "Fuzzy?" Or maybe "Slappy?" But, c'mon. Pete? I'm not even going to continue writing this crap. I need a better job writing about real news. I mean, religious squirrels? That doesn't even make any sense. Seriously.



Photo by Pete's Royal Bodyguard

ALL HAIL PETE! HE SHALL LEAD US TO A BETTER LIFE!

The guys your mom warned you about

● FocksRox's 12th floor residents take over the building; several RAs still missing



Photo by Jules Bubbinow

These 12th floor residents have taken over FocksRox Hall. The afro one seems to be their leader. I don't know what the Santa hats mean.

by the other Chief
DisConnector Ummm... Chief

Instead, they were able to capture the three RAs as hostages. In fact, the whole 12th floor was in on it, as they had been planning for weeks. More than that,

they are okay, and will be returned soon, as long as they do not upset the Chief.

Well, it's finally happened. Members of the 12th floor of FocksRox Hall have taken over the building.

The problems began when RA on duty Posh Dumm was doing his rounds, starting from the top and working his way down. At the 15th floor, he heard a strange pounding noise, and followed it to one particular room on the 12th floor. The room housed speakers that were "bigger than Rob's momma," according to Dumm.

Those big-ass speakers were in full effect, with bass so heavy the walls were shaking, threatening collapse of the tower.

Dumm called for back-up, and the RAs came in full force. Heff Clever and Pat "I think my name is Fred" Moron responded immediately, wielding their walky-talkies.

However, the residents of the room, Best Flowin' and DeeJay Huge, were not willing to turn down their music.

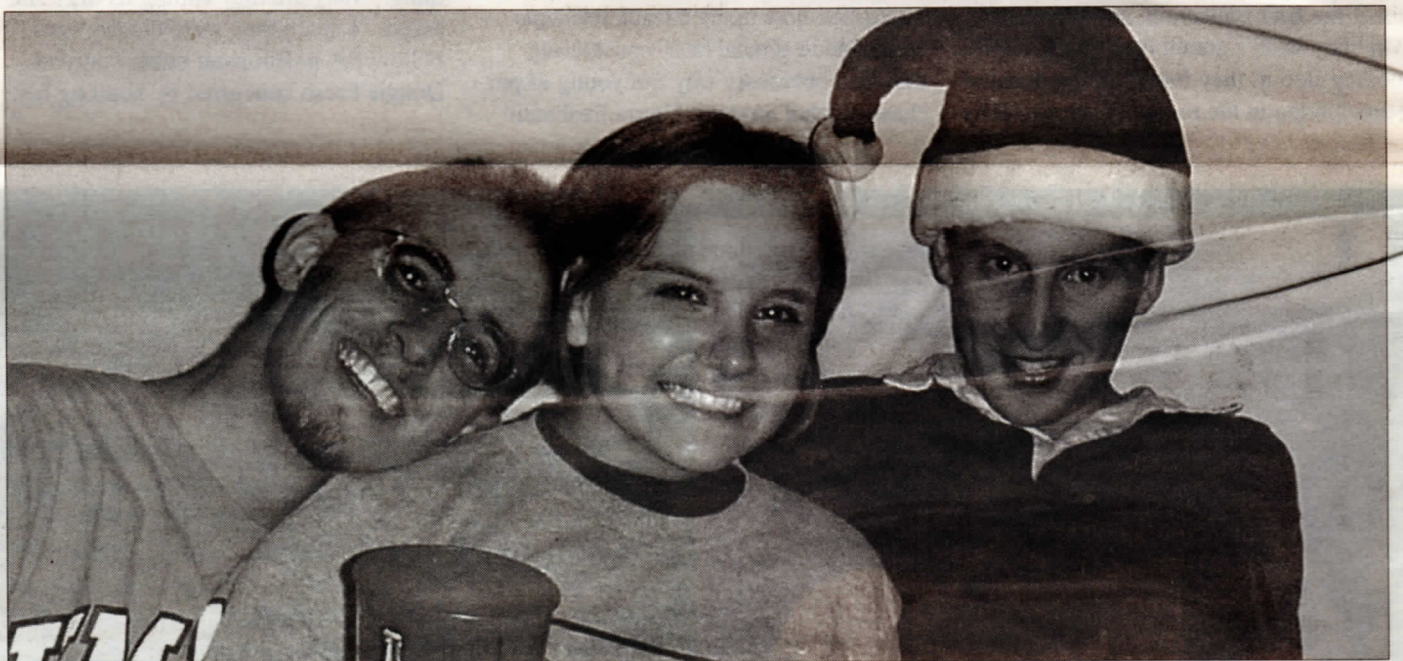


Photo by Dookie Boy

Residents of FocksRox Hall recently overthrew Resident Life staff and assumed control of the building. Two of the main radical organizers, Best Flowin' and the mysterious Santa-hat-wearing "Chief" are shown above with one of their captives, who is too afraid to stop smiling or get Best's nasty grimy head off her shoulders.



Dr. Billberts gets back in the saddle

by Brown Subway
DisConnector Tall Guy

Dr. Rob Billberts, Chair of the English Dept., took a nasty spill on his mountain bike just days prior to the start of the fall semester. Luckily, he escaped the incident with minor injuries. However, true to his nature, he has not let the accident hold him back from enjoying one of his favorite activities.

Certainly, it would be understandable had he decided to retire from biking altogether. "But what kind of message would I be sending to my

students? That it is okay to give up? That it is acceptable to quit? I can't do that," Billberts says.

Although he is in no particular hurry to get back to mountain-biking, he does still enjoy pedaling around the neighborhood. Last month, with all the unseasonably warm weather holding strong, Roberts took the initiative and went out and bought himself a new bike to replace the one that had been damaged in the accident.

"And I'm glad I did," he told the *DisConnector*, flashing a proud smile. "I love riding my new bike."

DisCoNnEcToR

Why do we do it? *Because we can.*

Last issue of 2001

Scam alert!

by Robve Riwal Allcavalier
DisConnector Jedi Knight

Residents of Bleach Hall on Residential North were appalled recently when they learned of a scam perpetrated by two Residence Advisors.

The set up was a noble one: donate beer to benefit thirsty students in the "dry" dorm Boojwah Hall. As such, the two RAs requested donations of beer.

"We had heard that the dorm was dry, and we felt bad. In this time of giving, we thought it only right to hand over the beer we had been sneaking into our rooms," said Bleach Resident Director Fred Muhdruid, who helped coordinate the efforts. "I thought they could be trusted, but I guess I was wrong. And it sickens me that they came up with the idea first."

Of course, members of Boojwah Hall staff were concerned when they heard about the beer collection, and wondered why they hadn't gotten their share. After looking into it, they found all the donated beers hidden in the rooms of the two RAs

who were left in charge of the collection.

"They were hoarding those yummy beverages, those greedy little shiznits," said Don Proyer, an RA in Boojwah. "Or maybe I mean biznitch-es," he added.

The names of the two RAs blamed for the scam remain confidential, to protect their rights to privacy. However, we got a photo of them anyway, and have no problems with exposing them. We were also able to find out they were codenamed "Biff" and "Griggy."

Residents of Bleach Hall are dismayed at the treachery. "To think we intended this to be a charitable donation, instead we were used to help two people throw wild parties and get drunk!" exclaimed Assistant Resident Director of Bleach Hall Yellie Cockring (teehee... Condom Olympics). She also mentioned how surprised she was to see how many Bleach residents were able to donate beer, considering most are obviously way too young to purchase alcohol anyway. Damn freshmen.



Photo by the one sober freshmen on campus last Thursday.

Resident Advisors such as "Griggy" and "Biff," as shown above, cannot be trusted.

Like they'll ever amount to anything.

Another resident advisor in Boojwah, Big Papa, didn't understand the whole thing. "Why are they calling us dry?" he asked. "I heard they were the dry ones." Fellow RA in Boojwah known only as Dougie Fresh concurred by nodding his

head, then mumbled something about not being able to find his "K-star."

Personally, I think this scam idea is only slightly dumber than printing a few pages of false, supposedly humorous articles in the last issue of the school newspaper.

Freestyle Wrappin'

● ARABARF employees liven up the on-campus dining experience

by Turd Fergusson
DisConnector Food Critic

As part of their "Yo, Try Somethin' Different" campaign that they've been pushing these past few years, ARABARF has unveiled a brand new style of wraps. "I'm really excited," said one student waiting in line to get one of these new wraps "It's so cool, and the wraps are so fresh."

Indeed, these wraps be fresh. The new style of wrapping is freestyle wrapping. The servers at ARABARF are happy to try out this new style of wrapping.

Photo by MC Wrapper
Jimmy, an ARABARF employee, goes freestyle while making your food.

"I've always done it so structured. You know, this part first, then this. I'll be happy to just throw it all to the wind and give all these UMassers' a taste of my true flava," said Jimmy, a ARABARF worker.

The first freestyle wrap that was thrown was a "Three Beef Toasted Turkey Taco Twister Wrap." The first recipient was pleased. He had this to say "This sh*t is fresh, this sh*t be the freshest sh*t I've ever tasted."

There's now some dispute over who is the best freestyler. Do you go for the fresh streamlined wrap, or do you like the dirtier, messier and edgier wraps? Only time will tell as the freestyle wrapping continues.

APOLOGY

The *DisConnector* staff would like to apologize for our lack of newswriting skills. We really don't know how to gather the real facts. As such, we said, "screw it," and went ahead and made all this stuff up. We hope you don't mind, and you might actually enjoy it.

Just keep in mind that we don't enjoy being sued for libel, and we really do love this University and every part of it. We swear.

With that in mind, enjoy your time reading the once-a-semester edition of the *DisConnector*.

Weather Forecast for the Low-Hell Area, Dec. 11th-14th

Tuesday:

Look outside. Whatever it is doing out there, all day, is my forecast. (Consequently, this is the BEST forecast I have ever made.)

Wednesday:

Beautiful, gorgeous, delightful weather! We couldn't ask for better conditions, with above average warmth and plenty of sunshine. The best weather this week! Oops, nevermind all that about the nice weather. I forgot that this was the LOW-ELL forecast. Now if you're going to be in Bora Bora... well, that's another story altogether.

Thursday:

There is NO forecast for Thursday, and there's nothing anyone can do about it. Not even the weather forecasters who flip a coin to decide what kind of weather we'll be getting have anything to say about Thursday. So just forget about Thursday. Sure, some kind of weather will occur. But no one knows what, and no one else but you really cares. Deal with it.

Friday:

100% chance that someone is going to have some kind of complaint about the weather, no matter what happens. Looking ahead to the weekend reveals more of the same. I love my job.

Amateur Student Meteorologist: Sandy Beachpants

No one will take the blame for the forecast being incorrect. The bottom line is that everyone complains about the weather, but no one does a damn thing about it.